

THE TIMES Tomorrow

A survival guide for the urban cyclist features in tomorrow's edition of *Saturday*, the eight-page section that provides the best weekend guide to what is happening in the arts, entertainment, and leisure.

One of the most famous characters in poetry was once described thus:

*Gilgamesh was a man
Honest and astute*

He was also to be immortalised in Chinese, Persian and the dialect of Orkney. Who is he? Latin scholars will know, of course, but they and others will learn much more about the history of this extraordinary character in *The Times* tomorrow.

Report for work, Walesa told

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, has been ordered to report to the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk to be given a job, according to informed sources in Gdansk. The move comes after a fortnight during which he has had several brushes with the authorities.

Solidarity harassment, page 7

Iran blamed for Baghdad bombs

Iraq blamed Iran for two car bomb explosions in central Baghdad yesterday which killed and wounded a number of people. An Iraqi official said the attacks would be avenged.

Octopus sell-out

City institutions rushed to buy shares in Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus Publishing Group. Application lists closed after a token one minute and the issue, by public tender, could be 18 times oversubscribed. Page 17

Norfolk honour

The Duke of Norfolk, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin and Lord Richardson of Dumfriesshire have been appointed Knights Companion of the Order of the Garter. Buckingham Palace has announced.

CBE man dead

Mr George Perry, a former motor executive of General Motors in Britain who was awarded the CBE in 1976 for furthering British-American relations, has been found murdered in a New York lake.

Dublin choice

Dr Colin O'Riordan, a biochemist and president of University College, Galway, has been appointed chairman of the Forum For A New Ireland which convenes on May 30.

£2m ai- claims

The families of eight members of the Spanish Skydivers Club killed in a "copter crash" at a West Ger. air show are to sue Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, for £2m each.

Prime plea fails

Geoffrey Prime, the self-confessed spy for the Russians, was refused leave to appeal against his 38-year sentence for espionage and assault on girls. Page 3

Carrington gibe

Calling for a new dialogue with Moscow, Lord Carrington, former Foreign Secretary, derided the silent war of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy". Page 9

Israel divided

The mounting toll of Israeli casualties in Lebanon has prompted a minority in the Begin Cabinet to press for a partial troop withdrawal. Back page

Off the mark

First-class cricket began at Cambridge where the University are playing Glamorgan. Fixtures for the season, which includes the Prudential World Cup, appear on page 23.

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France leads call for new monetary system

From Bailey Morris, Washington

France has launched a strong international campaign to persuade Western nations to agree to sweeping reforms of the international monetary system.

These would be made at a special conference, which the Mitterrand government is prepared to host next year and which, according to diplomatic sources in Washington yesterday, could replace next year's economic summit meeting of the seven leading Western powers.

The proposal for a conference - like that at Bretton Woods in 1944 which set up the International Monetary Fund - will be discussed at this year's summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, next month.

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and other leading officials in the "Mitterrand" government, have urged European countries to put pressure on the Reagan Administration to agree to the conference.

French officials have also asked leaders of developing countries to make similar demands at September's joint annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF.

Japan is mounting equally strong if more discreet pressure on the United States for reform. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister will propose at Williamsburg, a comprehensive policy to "revitalize the world economy, including plans to stabilize international exchange and interest rates as its first priority."

Mr Haruo Mayekawa, Governor of the Bank of Japan, told a conference of leading world bankers in Tokyo yesterday that the floating exchange rate system "has not come up to expectations." He blamed trade frictions on volatile and illogical exchange rates and called for a systematic investigation of ways to achieve stability.

M. Cheysson, in meetings with finance and foreign ministers, has stated strongly his belief that the western alliance could not survive and that meaningful world recovery could not take place without

reform of the floating exchange rate system.

An increasing number of American and European officials have expressed similar views in recent weeks in what appears to be a growing campaign to force the Reagan Administration to change its own monetary policies and agree to international reforms.

Support is mounting for a proposal to reform the present system of floating, flexible exchange rates by adopting a system which would place limits on currencies by requiring them to trade in fixed, narrower bands. Governments would be allowed to exceed these bands only after appealing to and receiving permission from an international body such as the IMF.

Those supporting proposed reforms would like to invest the IMF with greater powers to act as the lender of last resort to rescue countries with severe debt problems. These powers would include the ability to create, with little delay, additional funds or special drawing rights (SDRs) to help debt-ridden countries.

According to one top diplomat, "support is waiting for a proposal that would turn the IMF into an international central bank, but it is growing for one that would increase its powers to act as the international lender of last resort."

He said the growing concern which is being expressed over the debt crisis and the fragility of the world recovery is almost certain to turn the Williamsburg summit into a more explosive conference than the Reagan Administration had anticipated.

Part of the concern among European officials continues to be generated by the upward movement of the dollar, which is drawing badly-needed capital out of Europe.

Western head of state and Japanese officials want the Reagan Administration to reverse its rigid policy of non-intervention to a more accommodating policy of limited intervention to control the dollar.

Public borrowing in 1982-83 totalled £9,200m, nearly £2,000m more than the £7,200m predicted in the Budget last month according to official figures released yesterday. The size of the overshoot, which took the City by surprise, cast significant doubt on whether the Government can hold to its £8,000m borrowing target for the coming financial year.

But share prices soared on a wave of euphoric over-optimism, after an optimistic assessment of the business outlook from Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, Britain's leading chemicals company regarded as a sensitive barometer of Britain's industrial climate.

The FT index jumped 13.8 to 692.0, its biggest one-day rise for some weeks, after equalling its previous record high of 695.5 earlier in the day.

The higher-than-expected public borrowing was almost entirely due to an unusually large last-minute surge in spending by government departments and local authorities at the end of the financial year. This, estimated practically all the underpinned on planned budgets the Treasury predicted in the Budget, as departments

spent right up to their permitted cash ceilings.

But the 1982-83 public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) is still far less than the £9,500m forecast in last year's Budget, and it has not involved any breach of departmental cash limits.

Officials point out that some of the extra spending may have gone on items brought forward from this year, with no spill-over implications for higher spending in 1983-84.

The 1982-83 outcome means that financial policy was less tight than had been feared last year. The PSBR was equivalent to 3.4 per cent of national output, compared with the 2.4 per cent envisaged in the Budget for both 1982-83 and 1983-84.

Government spending is thus likely to have given a small boost to the economy. Further optimism for the economic outlook came yesterday from the latest official indicators which point to a continuing upswing in the coming months, and from preliminary consumer spending estimates for the first quarter of this year showing spending unchanged from the high levels seen at the end of last year.

Market report, page 16

Public borrowing overshoots target

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

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Market report, page 16

British airways

'Improved profitability'

Signs that world airline slump may be ending

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Strong traffic growth across the Atlantic and on other world air routes is raising hopes that the five-year airline slump, the worst in aviation history, may at last be drawing to a close.

Traffic on many routes increased considerably last month and forward bookings look even better, with summer traffic predicted to be up to 50 per cent higher than last year.

The growth on the Atlantic route is stimulating new competitive initiatives from airlines, including the prospective entry of the People's Express from the United States with its 599 London-New York



Out of focus: British photographers down their cameras as the car carrying the Prince and Princess of Wales passes. They were protesting at arrangements for the New Zealand tour. (Sour day, page 9).

Navy may turn back Argentine mourners

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

British warships may be ordered to escort a ship carrying bereaved Argentine families out of the 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands if an attempt is made to breach the naval blockade in 10 days' time.

But Whitehall officials last night refused to discuss contingency plans which have been drawn up in case Señor Orlando Destefanis carries out his threat to organize an unauthorized visit on April 30.

Señor Destefanis intends to go ahead, despite the decision by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to withdraw its support.

The Foreign Office immediately cancelled its permission for 250 relatives to visit the graves in the special cemetery at Port Darwin laid out for the Argentine dead by Britain, on the grounds that it accepted the judgment of the ICRC.

Mr Charles Owsley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, agreed last night that any attempt to enter the exclusion zone without permission would make those who did so liable to be stopped.

He said in an interview on Independent Radio News: "Obviously in case this should happen we are prepared to contingency plans but I am not going to tell you what they are and I hope you will understand."

"Much the best thing is that good sense and responsibility should prevail in Buenos Aires, that those who really represent the bereaved widows and orphans should get together to prevent this freelance expedition going ahead, because there must be a better, more dignified and more human way of doing what needs to be done," Mr Owsley said.

The blood-letting continued at the strife-torn commercial breakfast programme TV-am yesterday with the reported dismissal of Mr Hilary Lawson, the deputy chief executive.

According to reliable sources within the company, Mr Lawson, aged 29, who was appointed two weeks ago as executive to make way for Mr Greg Dyke, imported from London Weekend Television to try to boost the low audience ratings of *Good Morning Britain*.

Asked about the dismissal, a TV-am executive said "no comment" while another person described it as rubbish.

However, the sources maintained that Mr Lawson was a member of the so-called "Yorkshire Mafia", headed by Mr

BL to open gates with 'work or be dismissed' warning

By David Felton and Barrie Clement

BL executives who are planning a second attempt to break the four-week strike by the 5,000 Cowley assembly workers intend to open the factory gates on Monday to persuade them to return to work.

A mass meeting of the strikers today will hear a report of the abortive 16 hours of negotiations between senior union officials and the company which ended early yesterday, and is expected to vote for a continuation of the strike which has halted production of BL's new Maestro model.

Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Rover, last night reiterated the warning to the strikers that they could be dismissed if they do not return to work. "They are in breach of their contracts and I believe that if we do not get a speedy return to work we will have no alternative but to take the sort of action we have said we would. We are not bluffing," he said.

Union officials were angry that during the marathon set of negotiations the management rejected their idea of a ballot of the workforce on the company's proposals to end the 30 minutes

a week "washing up" time which has been practice at the plant for several decades.

Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) which represents most of the workers, said that changes in the work arrangements and improvements in productivity had to be achieved through negotiation rather than imposition by the management.

The unions and the workers on strike came under heavy attack from the Government and business leaders after the collapse of the peace talks.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told the Commons that taxpayers had put "a great deal of faith in the people who work at BL. I hope those workers will not return that faith by striking themselves and many other people out of jobs."

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, accused the Cowley workers of committing "industrial suicide".

He told businessmen in Cambridge: "We still have lemmings on the shop floor in the motor industry who are prepared to follow their union leadership over the nearest cliff in their persistence that having a job is a birthright whatever it costs the rest of us."

But Mr Evans and Mr Musgrove, who were appearing on the BBC 1 television programme *Nationwide* last night, agreed that the situation at Cowley was "very serious indeed". BL said that it would await the outcome of today's mass meeting before deciding on future action.

But it was understood that the company's threat to dismiss workers who did not respond to a return to work call from the

Continued on back page, col 4

TV-am faces another sacking

By John Witherow

monied to the Camden Lock headquarters in north London on Wednesday saying he expected to be dismissed but he emerged four hours later saying his differences with the management had been settled.

Mr Lawson was moved sideways from programmes editor to be deputy chief executive to make way for Mr Greg Dyke, imported from London Weekend Television to try to boost the low audience ratings of *Good Morning Britain*.

Asked about the dismissal, a TV-am executive said "no comment" while another person described it as rubbish.

However, the sources maintained that Mr Lawson was a member of the so-called "Yorkshire Mafia", headed by Mr

Michael Deakin, the director of programmes, which had clashed with the "Famous Five" presenters: Mr Michael Parkinson, Robert Kee, David Frost, Miss Ford and Miss Rippon.

They claimed that Mr Parkinson, who has been the most successful presenter of TV-am, only agreed to stay on condition that at least one of the "Yorkshire Mafia" left.

Mr Parkinson, however, denied yesterday that he had discussed dismissals with Mr Aiken.

A colleague of Mr Lawson described his dismissal as "totally unfair" and added that he was not popular with the staff "because he was too busy to solicit support among the journalists."

In Geneva the International Air Transport Association (IATA) confirmed that the slump was probably going to end, but said that too much should not be read into the improvement, whose length and strength was an open question. Results so far from different parts of the world were patchy.

Commons refer Times report to privileges

By Our Political Staff

The Commons decided yesterday by 159 votes to 48 to refer to the Committee of Privileges a report in *The Times* about the future of British foreign policy towards the Falkland Islands.

The report, about an inquiry by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee appeared as the front page lead on Monday under the headline, "Thatcher to be told Fortresses Falklands policy is untenable."

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud and the committee chairman, moving the reference, said the draft on which *The Times* report was based had a warning on its front page against premature disclosure.

He said that last Thursday the draft report was issued to the 11 committee members and six clerks and advisers, and on Monday an accurate summary had appeared in *The Times*. The report was clearly based on a close reading of the draft, he said.

Several Labour MPs opposed the motion. Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, asked what purpose would be served by a reference to the committee.

The journalist in question, if he was worthy of his trade, would not divulge his source. Why was *The Times* singled out? Other reports had appeared in *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman* but the crime of *The Times* was prominence.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, chairman of the Select Committee on Education, said that to send to the privileges committee a journalist, whose job it was to get information and who could only have got it by a degree of collusion with an MP, was a fruitless operation.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Alliance defence pact split by Owen

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr David Owen, deputy parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic Party, last night blew open the Liberal-SDP Alliance's tentative and delicate peace pact on the future of the Polaris missile system.

It is understood that the two parties have been working towards an agreement, a form of words for electoral consumption, which would put the question of Polaris on the table at the Geneva disarmament talks. The agreement would go no further; neglecting to mention what would happen if the Geneva talks failed to produce adequate Soviet concessions.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last December that he was against the independent use of Polaris, that the submarine-launched system should be assigned to the control of Nato, and that the two parties would have to consider how long they would be willing to maintain finance for the submarines.

But Dr Owen, the Social Democrats' defence spokesman, said in a speech in Bath last night: "Britain needs a minimum deterrent. That means retaining Polaris unless there have been deep cuts in strategic weapons in the strategic arms limitation talks."

He then added: "It cannot be reiterated too strongly that extending Polaris to the end of the century and being ready if need be to put cruise missiles into nuclear-powered submarines is a perfectly feasible way of maintaining a minimum deterrent for Britain."

The Liberal anguish that will be provoked by Dr Owen's remarks will be underlined by the statements made by Mr Steel in December, after he had spent a weekend with Dr Owen, going over the disarmament issue in great detail. He said then that there had been a genuine meeting of minds and, when questioned by *The Times*, he stressed: "On the (questioned) no independent use and assigning to Nato of control of the missiles, we have reached agreement."

Thatcher maintains election secrecy

The Prime Minister yesterday repudiated responsibility for starting what Mr Steel called "electionitis", and said in the Commons that she did not think she had done anything except answer questions put to her. Our Political Editor writes.

But she declined the Liberal leader's invitation to announce the date of the general election, and said: "Let me make it perfectly clear that when I decide to have an election the manner will be announced in the usual way, and until then, in spite of all provocation, I shall not cut out any options."

The Prime Minister's colleagues, who met her in Cabinet, Continued on back page, col 3

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Payout for widow of banker

The family of Sir Trevor Dawson, the City banker who killed himself to provide money for his wife to care for their handicapped son, will receive the money from his life insurance policies.

Lady Dawson stood to receive £137,500 from four insurance policies on her husband's life. The Phoenix Assurance Company, from whom the bulk of the money is payable, has agreed to honour the claims.

Sir Trevor, aged 51, killed himself just before one of his policies expired on February 15 last year. Phoenix said: "We normally expect to pay if the assured dies by suicide after one year of taking out the policy. But there can be certain circumstances, such as non-disclosure of information, which could invalidate the claim."

Since the Suicide Act, 1961, after which suicide was no longer a crime, insurance companies have been less able to defend claims on a life insurance policy where the person has committed suicide. But even before the Act, a suicide verdict was sometimes avoided by the inquest as a way round invalidating a claim.

Surgeon's costly marriage

A surgeon who exchanged wives with a solicitor friend but lived with his new wife for only a month four years ago and since then had paid more than £20,000 maintenance was allowed an appeal in the High Court Family Division yesterday.

Mr Justice Ewbank ruled that the surgeon should continue to pay £500 a month until three months after his wife's divorce decree had been made absolute and a lump sum of £8,000 to end his maintenance obligations.

Law Report, page 21

New Yorkshire police chief

Mr Colin Sampson, deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire, is to be the new chief constable, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Sampson, aged 53, will take over from Mr Ronald Gregory, who retires on June 5. Mr Sampson, who was formerly deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire, and who has been commended three times, was chosen from a short-list of five.

Mother can stay in UK

Ms Sarah Jabaar, a South African with three children, will be allowed to remain in Britain for compassionate reasons, the Home Office announced yesterday.

Ms Jabaar, aged 43, who lives in Cwmbran, Gwent, came to Britain five years ago. Her former husband, who had a work permit, later moved to the United States where he divorced her. More than 10,000 people had signed a petition against her deportation.

Pollen forecast service launched

A national daily pollen forecasting service to help Britain's estimated six million hay fever sufferers was launched yesterday.

The National Pollen and Hay Fever Bureau, sponsored by Fisons, will provide forecasts from the end of next month or early June, depending on the weather.

Duchess 'better'

The Duchess of Kent was said to be making good progress at the King Edward VIII's Hospital for Officers yesterday after an operation to remove an ovarian cyst on Wednesday. She is expected to be discharged in about a week.

Labour aims to woo craft workers in £2.5m election drive

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Labour Party is to "target" its electoral message on social groups and geographical areas in its £2.5m. general election campaign.

Privately conducted research has shown that its traditional support among low-paid manual workers and the unemployed, and among many professional people, is holding up well. But doubts remain about the voting intentions of skilled workers.

A surge of support is detected among women, and that is attributed, in part at least, to the party's stand against nuclear weapons. Improved rights for women will also be a key plank in the campaign.

Labour Party chiefs regard the Conservatives' lead in the opinion polls, variously estimated at between 6 and 11 per cent, as more vulnerable than first impressions would suggest. They predict that the gap could be closed quite sharply between now and polling day.

Among craft workers, however, it is conceded, that substantial effort will be required to win back support lost to Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the 1979 election.

That is particularly true in areas such as the West Midlands, where there are a large number of marginal seats. The skilled workers' vote has become more volatile, and cannot

be taken for granted any more, it is admitted.

However, by presenting a serious image to the voters, arguing the case for an alternative economic strategy to the monetarist policies of the Thatcher administration, the party's tacticians think they can bridge the credibility gap.

The party is budgeting for a £2.5m election drive, most of which will come from the unions. Of that, about £750,000 has been gathered in, including £240,000 from the National Union of Fireworkers, a socialist society based on a Labour Party secretariat.

Mr James Mortimer, Labour Party secretary, believes that the Conservatives' lead in the opinion polls, variously estimated at between 6 and 11 per cent, is more vulnerable than first impressions would suggest.

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MacGregor offers a new line

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday delivered a spirited defence of his plan to sell Scottish-made steel to the United States. If the deal was successful, the big Ravenscraig plant in Motherwell would have a more secure future than any other plant in the corporation.

At the same time, Mr MacGregor revived hopes of creating a new Scottish steel industry, centred on the Hunterston terminal in Ayrshire which, with its two direct reduction ore plants, cost about £160m in the 1970s but which has been idle because of the high cost of natural gas.

Mr MacGregor was speaking during a visit to a BSC plant at Glen Garnock in north Ayrshire, now being operated as an anchor chain manufacturing operation jointly with a Spanish company. His comments were immediately interpreted by union officials as an attempt to

defuse the growing opposition to his plan to form a joint venture with the US Steel Corporation.

The American deal, which could be concluded in the next few weeks given approval by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan, involves the sale of up to £400m of Ravenscraig steel during the next three years to US Steel.

Fourteen jobs in the Hunterston plant, which could be lost at Ravenscraig, and 3,000 at Fairfairs, but both companies say the project will ensure the survival of the plants.

Mr MacGregor said that the proposed US deal, which would cost the BSC £100m, would guarantee the majority of jobs at Ravenscraig for the next six years.

The Hunterston plant, which Mr MacGregor has always supported and at one stage had to place a ban on its disman-

ting and export, was designed to use gas to make high grade iron pellets for steelmaking. It also produces the BSC's Scottish iron ore terminal where ships discharge more than one million tonnes of ore each year for the Ravenscraig steelmaking operation.

Now, BSC scientists are working on a method of refining the Hunterston plant with coal instead of gas. Mr MacGregor, chairman-elect of the National Coal Board, said: "Within the decade there may be steel plants at Hunterston with the prospect of a very competitive future because they will use a process which will be a world beater. We will use Scottish coal at the plants - I have made that a condition."

Mr Clive Lewis, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation's Scottish secretary, has described the plan as "a ploy" which needed to be treated with "the greatest suspicion".

Two cleared of Liverpool riot charges

A man, his son and a youth aged 16, were cleared yesterday of inciting a riot in a Liverpool tenement block last summer.

The youth was convicted of fighting and making an affray, however, after the jury at Liverpool Crown Court spent a total of four and a half hours considering verdicts.

Mr Patrick Chiochi, aged 46, of Sir Thomas White Gardens, Everton, his son Patrick, aged 17, and the juvenile were acquitted of inciting people to riotously assemble to assault Merseyside police officers.

The jury also cleared them of fighting and making an affray on August 3 last year, on the direction of Judge Lachs.

They acquitted Mr Patrick Chiochi junior of a further charge of fighting and making an affray in the early hours of August 4.

Mr Chiochi senior was also acquitted of the August 4 affray charge, but the jury found the juvenile guilty by a majority of 10 to 2.

Dating agency head denies porn allegations

John Patterson, who runs a computer dating agency, denied in the High Court yesterday that his organization was an empire built on pornography.

The managing director of Dateline International told a libel trial jury: "That is totally untrue."

The suggestion that he advertised the business in pornographic magazines was also "totally untrue", he said.

The allegations were made on Wednesday by Mr Neville Glick, head of an introductions agency in Harrogate, who is suing Mr Patterson and his magazine, *Select*, for libel damages.

Mr Glick, aged 50, of Leeds, claims that a letter in the magazine saying that a member of his bureau had been introduced to a non-member carried a suggestion that the organization was "fronted for an escort or call-girl agency."

Mr Patterson, Singles Scene Ltd, his company, and Pindar Print Ltd, printers, deny libel, contending that the words complained of were true in substance and fact and were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Mother and girls die in blaze

Mrs Lorraine Houlston (below), and her daughter Tracy Houlston, aged five (top) and Cheryl Houlston, aged seven, died yesterday in a fire which destroyed the top of their home in Winsford, Cheshire. The bodies of all three were found on the first floor.

Mr Colin Wilde, aged 36, who was living with Mrs Houlston, and Michael Houlston, her son aged three, escaped by jumping from a window. The boy was in a stable condition in Leighton Hospital, Crewe. The condition of Mr Wilde, who suffered serious burns, was said to be fair.

A fire investigation team, police and forensic science experts examined the building but police and fire officials said there was no reason to suspect arson.

The council houses on the estate, which are almost 20 years old, have internal walls built largely of plasterboard and filled with a type of compressed straw building material.

Mr Alan Fellows, Cheshire divisional fire officer, said: "Separation and protection between the houses is very good, but separation between rooms and the two floors is not as good as it could be."



Peter Usimov (left) celebrating the publication of his book *My Russia* with Joan Greenwood and Robert Morley at the Foyles Literary Lunch held at the Dorchester, London, yesterday.

Union says shipbuilders face conflict

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Conflict is now inevitable in the shipbuilding industry according to Mr George Arnold, chief negotiator for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. He said yesterday that faced with a demand for 7,000 more redundancies, the men were in a militant mood.

"I have never seen such fervour among our members. There is bound to be trouble if there is no relaxation in the policies being pursued by British Shipbuilders (BS)."

He said the men were not prepared to accept the job losses or the state corporation's intention not to offer a pay rise this year. "The situation was serious, it is now critical."

During negotiations BS retreated from its original demand for 9,000 job losses to 7,000. Earlier this year it reduced manpower through 1,000 voluntary redundancies.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, of which the AUEW is a prominent member, which has been in talks with Sir Robert Atkinson, the chairman of BS, and has been told that a corporate plan was about to be submitted to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Mr Arnold added: "He will not show it to us and we feel that if anybody should know about it it is us."

There is to be a reconvened union delegate meeting on May 3. It is expected that it may lead to the employers being threatened with industrial action. The unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee has a firm policy that there should be no compulsory redundancies in the industry.

At the annual conference of the engineering section of AUEW yesterday, Mr David Cooper, a delegate from the Govan yard in the Clyde, said: "We are quite prepared to carry out a policy of occupation now if we get support from other yards. But support for militant action from the more prosperous yards such as Yarrow, is doubtful."

The National Union of Blast Furnacemen has agreed in principle to merge with the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Britain's second biggest union.

The amalgamation of the union's 7,000 members will take the AUEW's membership back to more than one million and boost its confidence in the present merger negotiations with other smaller unions to achieve a strong united organization from the present loose federation.

Supergrass 'took drugs overdose'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

An alleged Provisional IRA "supergrass" took an overdose of drugs while on a holiday with his family and police guards in Cyprus four months ago, his wife claimed yesterday.

The police forced open the bedroom door of Raymond and Lorraine Gilmour's hotel room to find he had swallowed tablets prescribed for his wife's nervous tension.

Mrs Gilmour, aged 22, who returned with her children, Raymond Gilmour, aged three, and Denise Gilmour, aged two, to Londonderry this week after spending eight months in protective custody, claimed that her husband was then taken to a military hospital.

In an interview in this week's *Republican News* she said the family spent a week in Cyprus before Christmas but fled when their police guards became suspicious of two men staying in the building.

Earlier this week it was reported that the Provisional IRA tracked Mr Gilmour to the hotel after his wife, increasingly homesick, had telephoned her family in Londonderry. However, it is believed that the terrorists did not send anyone to Cyprus.

Mrs Gilmour says that after fleeing from the city last August, when her husband allegedly gave information leading to the arrest and charging of 71 republicans, they lived in Ipswich and Newcastle upon Tyne.

But she grew disillusioned with her life and decided to leave her hideout. Her husband, aged 23, is remaining in protective custody until he has given evidence in a forthcoming trial.

An off-duty Royal Ulster Constabulary inspector escaped death yesterday when Provisional IRA gunmen ambushed his car in Londonderry. The terrorists held a family hostage overnight before running into the road and firing up to ten shots as he drove by.

Official Unionist members of the Northern Ireland Assembly increased to 27 yesterday with the result of a by-election in Armagh. Mr James Speers received 26,907 votes against 4,920 for Mr Tom French of the Workers' Party in a 34.07 per cent poll.

Woman 'paid 6p an hour for working all week'

By Nicholas Cole

The independent Low Pay Unit, is examining the case of a handicapped London woman who claims she receives only 6p an hour after deductions for working a 168 hour week on telephone-answering duty at her home.

The woman takes emergency calls for a plumbing service and earns £10.08 for a non-stop working week. She prefers to remain anonymous for fear of losing her employment on which she depends to supplement her invalidity benefit.

Her situation has emerged during the unit's "Low Pay in London" campaign, which is backed by a £22,000 grant from the Greater London Council. It has attracted between 4,000 and 5,000 inquiries from employers, and low-paid employees, mostly in the catering, clothing and retail industries.

Elizabeth Bissett, the unit's research officer, says the unit estimates that there are 500,000 full-time workers and a further 250,000 part-timers being paid unjustifiably low wages in London. She explained: "One of the aims has been to publicize the wages council system, which is in great need of strengthening and being improved, and also to campaign on peoples' awareness of their employment rights."

In addition, the unit is collating replies to a recent survey of homeworkers. Replies show "a real need for legislative change to protect homeworkers against the level of exploitation we have found," the unit says.

The employees mainly include those involved in sewing, lampshade and toy making, envelope-addressing, typing and computer-related work. Altogether 120 replies have been received in the two surveys.

Business as usual at Sotheby's

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

More art experts employed by Sotheby's were "tricking forward" to meet or speak to Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid, Mr Robert Seelig of the bankers Morgan Grenfell, claimed yesterday on behalf of the two Americans who have launched a takeover bid for Sotheby's, the fine art auctioneers.

Mr Seelig, speaking from New York, added that he was surprised that the Sotheby's board had not yet provided formal details of its defence. He agreed with the view prevalent in London that Sotheby's was still looking for an alternative bidder. Many United States companies had been approached, he said.

At Sotheby's in London it was business as usual, with no experts coming forward to express disquiet about the present management after Mr Nabil Said's initiative on Wednesday.

It is clear that confidential discussions are now beginning to take place behind the scenes over possible strategies for the expert staff should Mr Cogan and Mr Swid take control of Sotheby's. It is reported that money would be available from the City to back a new auctioneering venture.

If some of the senior experts realized their shareholdings at the bid price they would be placed to start a new business. Discussions are also said to have taken place with Phillips London's third largest art auctioneering firm, over possible collaboration.

Science report

Computer to track thundery weather

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The Meteorological Office is to install a new computer system to detect and track thunderstorms over Europe and the neighbouring North Atlantic. It should enable forecasters to include more precise information about thundery weather in their local bulletins and to warn aircraft more promptly about storms.

The system will be the first in the world to use a computer to track thunderstorms over a wide area. A network of sensitive automatic stations, four in the British Isles and one in Gibraltar, will detect storms up to two or three thousand kilometres away by listening for the characteristic long-wave radio signals generated by lightning flashes.

These are known to meteorologists as "sferics" - short for atmospherics - and to ordinary radio listeners as irritating crackling noises when a storm is close.

The British software company, CAP Scientific, has won a £200,000 contract to install the system's central computer at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, Berkshire. This machine, a Perkin-Elmer 3230, will process information from the automatic stations and compute the position of each lightning flash, to within half a kilometre, from the exact times at which the various detectors respond.

Since radio waves travel at 300,000 kilometres a second, the time differences are measured in thousandths of a second. Very sophisticated communications and signal processing technology will be required to make the system work.

At present the Meteorological Office uses a manual method of thunderstorm detection. It is based on a network of observers who scan the sky once an hour, during daytime, with a detector. Their bearings are plotted by hand to give the location of lightning flashes. This limited technique misses out most thundery activity.

The new Arrival Time Difference (ATD) computer system, which is due to come into operation next year, can process 350 lightning strikes an hour. That should reveal the location of most thunderstorms within an area stretching from the Arctic Ocean to North Africa and from Russia to the mid-Atlantic. Other countries will share the information through the World Meteorological Office network.

The new ATD lightning system will supplement weather radar and satellite observations of potential storms. The Meteorological Office is also upgrading its radar, this month, for example, it gave Plessey a £500,000 contract to supply new weather radar for South-east England, measuring rainfall intensity rather than thunder.

The same is true of satellite cloud pictures. Even experienced forecasters sometimes find it difficult to deduce the presence of thunderstorms from radar and satellite information. The ATD system will be the only reliable means of detecting lightning directly. It could be very useful for aviation authorities and electricity boards.

Fund private schools, state urged

By Rupert Morris

State financial support for private schools to increase their diversity and make them available to more people is urged today in a booklet published by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS).

Mr Peter Mason, former High Master of Manchester Grammar School, points out that private schools in Britain cater for a very low percentage of the school population compared with other European countries.

Private schools in January, 1981, educated about 6 per cent of the school population in England and Wales and only 3.4 per cent in Scotland, according to government figures, while about 25 per cent of students in higher education came from private schools.

Mr Mason quotes a 1978 regional survey by ISIS, which

showed that the parents of 70 per cent of private pupils had not been educated at independent schools, as evidence that the private system is broadening its horizons.

He says the process of widening access to private schools would be enormously helped if those schools received state aid, as in Denmark.

Not only traditional boys' and girls' public schools and preparatory schools, but also free schools like Stinnerhill, those based on Steiner and Montessori principles and confessional schools for all religious denominations should be subsidized, according to Mr Mason.

By an extension of the assisted places scheme, or by an educational voucher scheme, he argues that Britain might achieve "the most liberal and varied system of education in Europe."

EEC countries and private schools

Country	Private pupils as % of total school population
Belgium	French based 44.2 (1)
	Dutch based 67.7 (2)
Denmark	8.3 (2)
France	16.7 (2)
Germany	4.8 (2)
Greece	n.a.
Ireland	80.0 (1)
Italy	7.5 (1)
Luxembourg	4.8 (2)
Netherlands	72.0 (3)
UK	3.4 (1)
Wales	6.0 (1)
Scotland	3.4 (1)

(1) primary and secondary
(2) primary, primary and secondary
(3) includes in addition to (2) some higher levels, e.g. Teachers Training
2.4% is the official figure, but 5% of the children of school age in the Irish Republic attend schools which are not by independent bodies.

A former head boy at Wellington College has protested to the Charity Commissioners about the involvement of the school in the campaign against Labour's plans for private education. Mr Anthony Lawton, aged 30, claims that the political character of the campaign, run by Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), is in clear conflict with Wellington's status as an educational charity.

Mr Lawton, a consultant, who was appointed head-boy by Mr Frank Fisher, the former headmaster of Wellington who now chairs the public schools' campaign, received an ISIS circular enclosed with a letter to old boys from Dr David Newsome, Wellington's present headmaster. Entitled "Freedom is Under Fire", it invited old boys to defend independent schools by joining the ISIS Association Supporters

Mother and girls die in blaze

Mrs Lorraine Houlston (below), and her daughter Tracy Houlston, aged five (top) and Cheryl Houlston, aged seven, died yesterday in a fire which destroyed the top of their home in Winsford, Cheshire. The bodies of all three were found on the first floor.

Mr Colin Wilde, aged 36, who was living with Mrs Houlston, and Michael Houlston, her son aged three, escaped by jumping from a window. The boy was in a stable condition in Leighton Hospital, Crewe. The condition of Mr Wilde, who suffered serious burns, was said to be fair.

A fire investigation team, police and forensic science experts examined the building but police and fire officials said there was no reason to suspect arson.

The council houses on the estate, which are almost 20 years old, have internal walls built largely of plasterboard and filled with a type of compressed straw building material.

Mr Alan Fellows, Cheshire divisional fire officer, said: "Separation and protection between the houses is very good, but separation between rooms and the two floors is not as good as it could be."



Mrs Lorraine Houlston, who died in a fire along with her daughters Tracy and Cheryl Houlston.

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Prime's appeal against 'sentence without hope' for spying rejected

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The 38-year jail sentence on Geoffrey Prime, who spied for the Soviet Union, was upheld by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Refusing an application for leave to appeal against the sentence, Lord Justice Lawton said Prime had taken "the Queen's shilling" both as a corporal in the RAF and the Government's intelligence service and then sold her, her subjects and allies to a potential enemy. In times of war such conduct would have merited the death penalty.

In peacetime the nearest penalty was a long prison sentence. At least two of the counts under the Official Secrets Act which Prime admitted to were, Lord Lawton said, acts of treachery.

During a hearing which went into camera for almost an hour at one point Mr George Carman, QC, for Prime, told the court that the sentences amounted to "a sentence without hope". He was given 35 years for espionage and three years for offences against young girls.

Prime, aged 44, was sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice after admitting spying for the Russians for 14 years including a period working as a linguist at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham. The espionage came to light after investigations into the sexual offences.

Prime confessed to his wife on the assaults on girls and the spying. He gave himself up for the assaults and his wife, Rona, went to the police about the espionage.

Mr Carman said that Prime would be 82 if he served his full sentence. The sentence was the longest determinate imposed on a man of his age and the longest determinate sentence imposed on any defendant in the past 20 years.

Raising 11 points in favour of the application, Mr Carman asked the court to note that Prime had been interviewed 13 times, lasting 39 hours, by MI5 since his conviction. Mr Carman said Prime was ready to continue to help MI5 and more interviews were likely.

His original confession to the police must, Mr Carman said, "have been of enormous value to the security authorities". The statement had made the seven counts against Prime possible.

Mr Carman said medical evidence showed that Prime had an obsessive and abnormal personality and was not the ruthless figure seen by the Lord Chief Justice.

Chief Justice.

The court, Mr Carman said, should consider what effect the sentence might have on any future spy and his relations who might be placed in the position of Prime and his wife.

Mr Carman said: "This court has to provide a positive incentive to any future traitor to come forward. Mrs Prime was in court for the hearing. She was in tears when the court retired."

When they returned Lord Lawton, sitting with Sir Roger Ormrod and Mr Justice Michael Davies, said Prime's help to MI5 might be taken into account when the sentence was reviewed but it could not be considered by the court.

The sentence had to be considered in the light of two basic factors of sentencing which were the deterrent value and retribution.

Lord Lawton said retribution was out of favour with criminologists but it meant a situation where the offence was so grave that the sentence had to reflect "the abhorrence by right-minded members of the public".

Lord Lawton said the argument about an incentive was appreciated by the court but "in the end the scales have to come down on the side of deterrence. It is much better that spying should never start than that the spies should subsequently confess."

Geoffrey Prime: "A sentence without hope."

Geoffrey Prime: "A sentence without hope."

Cambridge team puts Trireme to the test



By Michael Horsnell

A small piece of classical naval history (about 2 metres high by 2.5 metres long) was reconstructed at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, yesterday when four members of the Cambridge University light rowing crew "propelled" a Greek trireme for the first time in 1,500 years (above).

The trial was an essential step in a £100,000 project to build a replica of the 115-ft long warship (shown right as 1/25 scale model) used at the Battle of Salamis in 480BC and last recorded in use in a battle between Constantine and Licinius in 323AD.

Yesterday's launch of a full scale cross-section of the trireme beside a tank of water

proved that three-decks of oarsmen with oars of similar length can row simultaneously. It also demonstrated that the warship would have been travelling at up to nine knots when it rammed the enemy.

The "threes", as they were described by a fifth century historian, became obsolete and

the method of building them forgotten. But after epic correspondence in *The Times* in 1975 three men, a professor, banker and an architect, recreated the craft in which the gallant Greeks humbled the mighty Persians at Salamis.

Last year Professor John

Morrison, formerly president of Wolfson College, Cambridge; Mr John Coates, previously chief naval architect at the Ministry of Defence, and Mr. Frank Welsh, a director of Grindlay's Bank, announced that the replica, with a crew of 200, would be launched in 1984.

Yesterday's trial, on the first day of a two-day conference to discuss the project, finally discredited suggestions that the top file (thranite) must have had longer oars or rowed standing up.

A Greek Trireme Trust is being formed to give support, and in the meantime contributions can be sent to Air Marshal Peter Turner, at Wolfson College, Cambridge. (Photographs: Barry Beattie.)

£6m attempt to improve 'barren life' in jail

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The "barren" life led by adult prisoners in overcrowded Strangeways prison, Manchester, was strongly criticized by Sir James Hennessy, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, in a report yesterday.

But even as the report was published the Home Office announced a £6m spending plan for the jail over the next eight years.

The redevelopment was announced by Mr John Lewis, the new governor, who said that the century-old prison had 1,568 inmates; it was designed to hold only 1,024. The figure fluctuated and could regularly reach 1,700.

The report says that a vicious circle of deprivation was in danger of developing, with few work opportunities, a limited education programme and little recreational association.

It adds: "We regard this state of affairs, in which the regime for convicted prisoners cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said to meet the requirements of Prison Rule 1, as quite unacceptable."

Rule 1 places on the prison system the requirement to encourage prisoners to lead a good and useful life.

The report says there were only seven single lavatories for about 350 staff. In parts of the main prison, forty or more inmates shared access to a single lavatory.

On young prisoners, the report says: "For this age group the absence of education and work for all but a minority, and the consequent restriction to the cell for up to 23 hours a day is particularly to be regretted."

But the education department is praised for meeting the statutory requirements for education of 30 young offenders under school leaving age.

The report adds that without the good spirit in the prison, Manchester could not continue to contain so large a population in such basic conditions with so little trouble.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that overcrowding, coupled with the necessary commitment of staff to service the courts, led to an impoverished regime with many prisoners spending much of the day locked in their cells.

Efforts had been made to improve conditions within the constraint of numbers and the availability of resources. "I nevertheless accept that conditions for both inmates and staff are in many respects unsatisfactory," he said.

Mr Phil Hughes, member of the Strangeways Prison Officers' Association committee, said yesterday: "The branch certainly welcomes this report and there is really nothing in it which we do not agree. Either the overcrowding must come down or staffing levels must go up, otherwise I dread to think what will happen inside this jail when prison officers begin their summer leave next month."

Mr Hughes said the report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (October, 1981, Home Office, London, £1.10).

Mr Whitelaw has asked Sir James Hennessy to conduct an inquiry into the adequacy of arrangements in prisons for the prevention of suicides. (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes.)

The inquiry, disclosed by the Home Office Prison Department yesterday, coincides with increasing concern at the number of suicides in prisons. A public inquiry into the administration of the remand prison at Canterbury, in Kent, is called for in a report published today into the deaths of four prisoners there within a year, three by suicide and one through an asthmatic attack.

Murder Near the Cathedral (Inquest, 23-28 Underwood Road, London E1 5AW).

Rescue charges idea condemned

By David Nicholson-Lord

Proposals to cut coastguard service and consider levying charges on people who are rescued drew reactions of anger and outrage from representatives of merchant seamen, lifeboatmen and coastguards yesterday.

Mr Eric Nevin, general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers' Association, the largest of the seafarers' organizations, described the idea of charging for rescues as diabolical. The Civil Service Union, which represents all uniformed coastguards, promised to resist the proposals "with all the strength we can muster".

The recommendations are understood to be contained in the forthcoming report on the coastguard service from Lord Rayner's team on Civil Service efficiency. The leak of the report, to *The Guardian*, has coincided with strong criticism at the Penlee lifeboat inquiry of the damage done to the service by reorganization.

The report is said to propose the dismissal of 1,200 part-time auxiliary coastguards, 30 per cent of their total; closing three centres at Moray, Shoreham and Tees and making several full-time staff redundant; and

scrapping the breeches buoy, said to be out of date. Charges for those rescued should also be considered, according to the report.

Although the report acknowledges that the part-timers are paid only "very modest rates" of £1.69 an hour, savings of £100,000 a year are expected. Cutting a third of rescue centres management teams would save another £240,000 annually. The policy of reducing visual watches should be continued and the 21 centres remaining after the three closures should be reviewed every two years.

The Rayner conclusions were condemned yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Hull, East, who has tabled a Commons motion deploring them.

Captain Eric Kemp, secretary of the St Ives lifeboat and the Trinity House pilot for Mount's Bay, Cornwall, where the Penlee lifeboat operates, yesterday described the proposals as disastrous and predicted they would lead to lives being lost.

Captain Kemp said that if the coastguards were withdrawn "we would have to find some voluntary way of replacing them".

Coastguard chief attacks constant reviews

Britain's chief coastguard yesterday told the inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster that constant reviews of the service were affecting the morale of his men.

Lieutenant-Commander Tim Fetherston-Dilke said: "It is perfectly true to say that from me down to the newest-joined coastguard, nobody's confidence is increased by periodic reviews."

"We barely have time to recover from one review before we appear to be into the next. That is the factor which I think does not help morale because it leads to uncertainty among both regulars and auxiliaries about what government policy will be in the future."

Part from the 1978 reorganization, there were reviews in 1970, 1974, 1979 and 1982, and another review was due in two years, he said.

Eight lifeboatmen, all from Mousehole, Cornwall, died together with eight people they were trying to save from the coaster Union Star in hurricane force winds six days before Christmas in 1981.

Lieutenant-Commander Fetherston-Dilke, questioned by Mr George Beattie, for the Coastguards, denied that trust between the various rescue organizations had been destroyed.

The inquiry continues today.

Duke to look at impact of technology

By Our Technology Correspondent

International figures including the Duke of Edinburgh, Sheikh Yamani, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, and Umberto Agnelli, chairman of Fiat Auto, will meet in London next week to discuss the social and cultural challenge of modern technology.

They will take part in a three-day symposium called Mantech which is being organized by the Fellowship of Engineering (whose senior fellow is the Duke of Edinburgh).

Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology and chairman of the Mantech organizing committee, said yesterday that the 200 invited participants were expected to produce specific conclusions about the international impact of new technology.

Test tube teams in dispute

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A serious dispute between the world's two leading test tube baby research teams is revealed in an exchange of letters published in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

The disagreement is over an attempt by Dr Alan Trounson and his team at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, to implant in a woman an egg provided by another and fertilized in a laboratory.

After several trials a pregnancy was achieved in a woman aged 38 with an egg from a donor aged 42. However, the recipient suffered a spontaneous abortion after 10 weeks.

In a severely critical letter, Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards, of Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, the pioneers of the test tube baby technique, suggest that the history of this case indicates that hurried decisions were taken under pressure.

They say, "It illustrates the need for firm ethical guidelines and codes of conduct. It underlines the possible abuses and substantial treatments which may occur in *in vitro* fertilization and embryo replacement is not carefully controlled."

Their particular concern is the risk of using eggs from older donors.

In a reply Dr Alan Trounson, Dr Carl Wood and Dr Leeton disagree with their English colleagues on the risks. They accept that many couples would not wish to receive an egg from a woman aged 42 but they reserved the right to assist in the donation should the fully informed donor and recipient couples desire this.

The risk of using an egg from an older woman is the higher incidence of malformation such as Down's syndrome which increases with age.

Law Society fails in conveyancing case

From Arthur Geman, Birmingham

The Law Society suffered its third court defeat in five weeks yesterday over alleged improper conveyancing. After the society withdrew summonses before Birmingham magistrates' court, it was said it could face action for alleged malicious prosecution.

Other similar prosecutions have been dismissed recently at Chatham and Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Yesterday four summonses against Mr John Atkinson, the managing director of National Conveyancing Services of Moseley, Birmingham, were withdrawn when the Law Society conceded that he had been carrying out a lawful practice. The summonses, taken under section 22 of the Solicitors Act, 1974, alleged that Mr Atkinson was not a qualified person to carry out conveyancing.

But Mr Timothy Lawrence, for the society, applied for the withdrawal of these summonses, saying that earlier this week the society had been told that Mr Ian Morrison, a notary and a person qualified to do the transfer, had drawn up all the papers in the case.

Mr Graham Jones, for the

defence, told the court that Mr Atkinson had always contested the case and had carried out a perfectly lawful practice.

Later, Mr David Southwell, secretary of the National Institute of Conveyancing Agents (Nica), said: "We will continue with our main task of providing for the needs of the public. We have now ensured that house buyers will have freedom in choosing their conveyancers."

Mr Atkinson said: "The Law Society has in effect recognized that we are acting in accordance with requirements and that we are not breaking the law."

"In our view there is considerable evidence that this prosecution is malicious and we have requested Nica to consider a prosecution against the Law Society on those grounds."

The Solicitors Act is being broken in the offices of solicitors, in banks and building societies thousands of times every week. Why does the Law Society not prosecute in those cases?

Mr Southwell said: "We are seeking legal advice to determine whether prosecution should be brought against the Law Society for malicious prosecution."

Rounder pounds but fewer in your pocket

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

Followers of the cash-in-hand school of electoral behaviour - who believe people vote according to the state of their pockets - would do well to steel themselves for a surprise when the Prime Minister waves from a summer general election.

Calculations by *The Times* show that many people now have less in their pay packets than they did at Budget time.

The average working man earning £160 a week now takes home £110.65, compared with £121.03 in Budget week. He has been hit by the rise in national insurance contributions, which have increased by 40p a week, and by the change in the system of calculating mortgage interest relief.

Under the new Miras system, tax relief is deducted from the payment instead of reducing deductions from pay at source.

On a £15,000 mortgage Miras will normally mean a net loss of about £160 a week because the drop in repayments is less than the income tax relief withdrawn.

Another £1.33 is lost through the taxman clawing back tax relief given last year.

The position looks rather better once the Budget tax cuts take effect, on the first pay day after May 10, but after the initial tax rebate for the weeks since the start of the tax year in April, take home pay subsides to a steady average £112.45.



Mr Jack Bruce-Gardyne, minister in charge of the Royal Mint, comparing old and new.

PAY PACKET CHANGES				
	Budget week	First pay day after April 6	First pay day after May 10	Subsequent pay days
Average gross earnings	£160	£160	£160	£160
National insurance	£14.02	£14.42	£14.42	£14.42
Income tax	£33.60	£33.60	£22.80	£31.80
Tax relief on £15,000 mortgage	£8.25			
Tax clawback for 1982-83 underpayment		£1.33	£1.33	£1.33
Take home pay	£121.03	£110.65	£121.45	£112.45
Mortgage payment	£21.78	£24.75	£24.75	£24.75
	£99.25	£85.90	£96.70	£87.70

*Assuming married man's allowance only. Calculations by Spicer and Pegler, accountants

Collector wins tussle over Maori carving

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr George Ortiz, a millionaire art collector, yesterday won his legal dispute with the New Zealand Government over the ownership of an ancient Maori carving estimated to be worth £300,000, and said to have been exported illegally.

Five Law Lords unanimously ruled that New Zealand could not order the carving to be forfeited by Mr Ortiz, a renowned collector of Polynesian art, who auctioned his collection in 1978 for £1.6m to raise a ransom for his kidnapped daughter.

It is understood that Mr Ortiz, who had to withdraw the carving from the sale because of the legal action, may now sue the New Zealand government for compensation for the expected sale price.

The Law Lords upheld a Court of Appeal ruling that the Queen, as head of the New Zealand Government, was not entitled to claim back the carving, found in 1972 by a tribesman in a swamp, under the Historic Articles Act, 1962.

Giving judgment, Lord Brightman said there was no doubt that the carving, five carved

wood panels forming a food store door, was exported in breach of the Act under which permission must be obtained for such exports. But no offence was committed unless the export was done "knowingly", he said.

The only forfeiture, could be under the Customs Act, 1966, which applied to all illegal exports, and that would be enforceable only through customs officials seizing the object.

The New Zealand High Commission said yesterday: "We are naturally very disappointed with the decision and we expect the Attorney General in New Zealand will be making a fuller statement."

The action was also brought against Mr Lance Entwistle, a London dealer in primitive works of art, who sold the carvings to Mr Ortiz in 1973 for \$65,000.

Mr Ortiz of the Patino Bolivian tin-mining family, claimed he was entitled to the carving because he had acquired it in good faith, held it for five years and became the owner under the law of Switzerland, where he lives.

Ex-trainer fined over starving racehorse

From Our Correspondent, Gloucester

Menaly, a thoroughbred racehorse, was emaciated through lack of food when it left the stables of David Lewis, a former trainer, Cheltenham magistrates were told yesterday.

The 10-year-old gelding was so thin when it arrived at its new home that Mr Michael Lambert, a leading trainer, could count its ribs.

The horse was so starved that when it started eating it seemed it would never stop. "I was shocked when I saw it," Mr Lambert told the court. "It was obvious it has not been fed correctly."

Lewis, aged 37, of King's Head Lane, Withington, Gloucestershire, denied RSPCA allegations that he caused the animal unnecessary suffering but he was convicted and fined £100 with £500 costs.

The court was told that the horse arrived at the Lambert

stables in Kenneythorpe, north Yorkshire, after a 200-mile journey from Gloucestershire where it had spent several weeks in the care of Lewis, who is no longer a licensed trainer.

Mr Ewan Currow, a veterinary surgeon, said he examined the horse four days later and found it to be in a generally poor state. "My first impression was that it was in extremely poor bodily condition," he said. "It was dull and there was a marked lack of flesh on the withers and hind quarters." The horse would probably not race again, he said.

Lewis denied that he neglected the horse after the owner told him he was moving it to Mr Lambert's stables. He said Menaly went lame during a race at Newton Abbot but the owner told him not to call in the vet because he was moving the horse to Yorkshire.

Widow was killed for £60

Michael Heron, aged 22, who admitted murdering Mrs Jenny Barton, aged 82, was jailed for life by Newport Crown Court yesterday.

Heron repeatedly struck Mrs Barton, a widow, with a rolling pin and garden fork to force her to tell him where her savings of £60 were kept. She died 17 days later in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

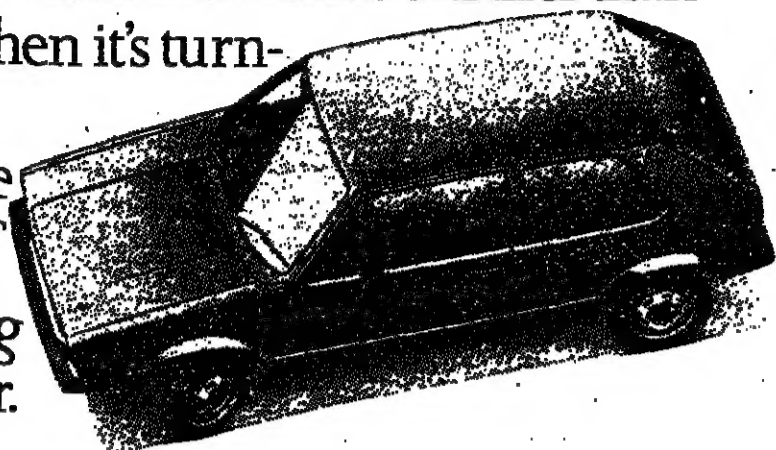
The court was told that on October 29 Heron and his friend, Robert Heath, aged 21, robbed Mrs Barton in her detached home in Beech Road, Chepstow, Gwent, where Heron had worked as a gardener.

Heath was jailed for six years after he was convicted of manslaughter. The judge described him as "weak and ineffectual".

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When is a 15ft 8ins Volvo 240 Estate smaller than a 12ft 6ins VW Golf? When it's turning round.

Although over three feet longer than the Golf, the Volvo Estate's turning circle is 7 inches smaller.



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safety cage of welded box steel pillars. Amazingly, each weld is strong enough to support the weight of the entire car.

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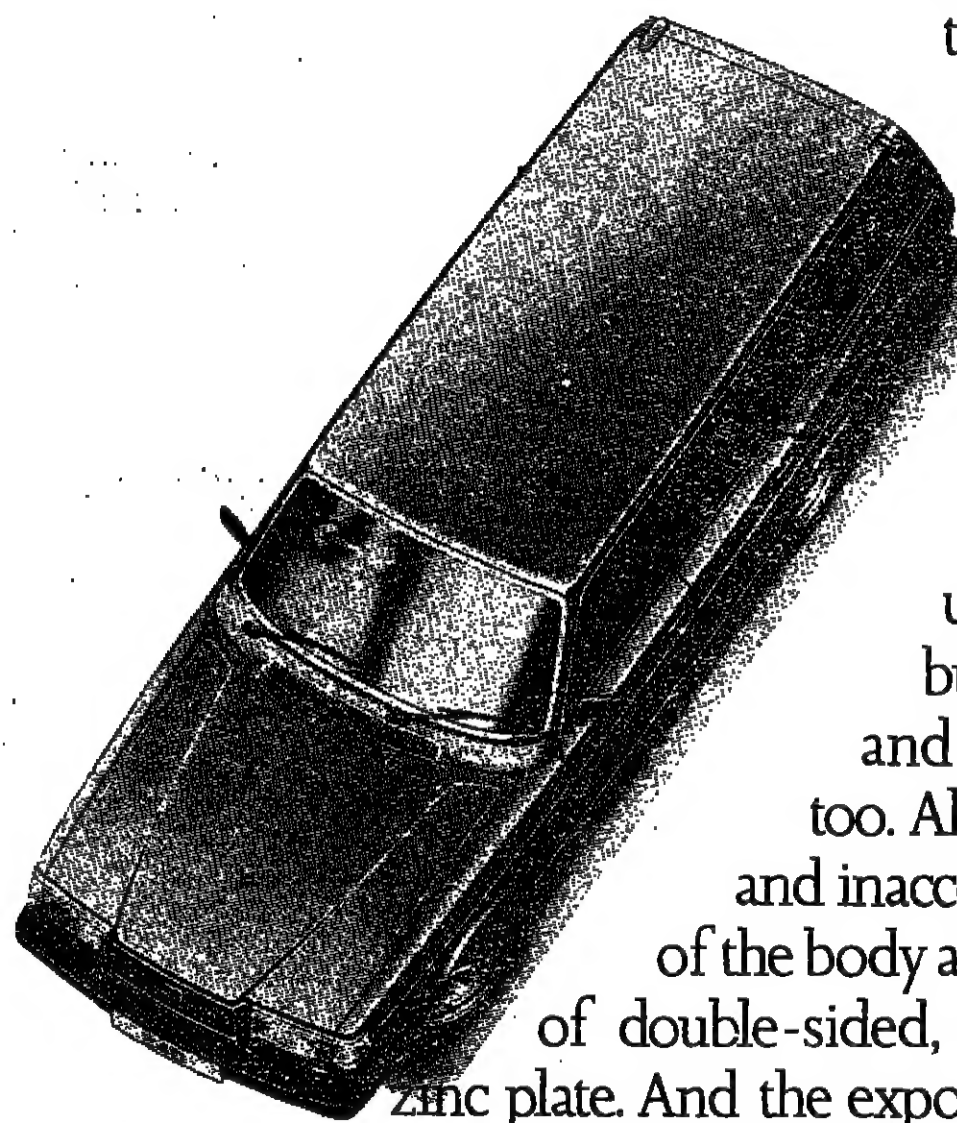
of the body are made of double-sided, hot-dipped zinc plate. And the exposed parts of

the exhaust system have a special rust-resisting aluminium finish.

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Any way you look at it, that's not a lot of money for an estate car. Especially an estate car that can turn on a sixpence.



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France sticks to defence expansion despite economic difficulties

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government proposes to increase defence spending by an average of 2 per cent a year for the next five years, despite its present economic difficulties, M. Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, announced yesterday. Thirty per cent of the equipment budget will go for nuclear arms.

Details of the defence proposals covering the years 1984-1988 (inclusive), which were revealed yesterday, show that France intends to go ahead with all the big defence programmes that were planned before the present economic crisis. Others wonder, however, how much can be squeezed into a relatively small increase in spending.

Under the proposed modernization programme of France's independent nuclear deterrent force, two more nuclear ballistic missile submarines will be added to the five already in operation.

The first, bearing M4 multiple-warhead nuclear missiles with a range of more than 2,500 miles, is due to come into operation in 1985, while construction of the second, of a new generation, will begin in 1988 with the aim of bringing it into service in 1994.

The medium range air-ground stand-off rocket is to be added to 15 Mirage IV strategic bombers and is also to equip the new Mirage 2000 fighter-bombers. The Government aims to replace the remaining Mirage IV bombers with mobile SX strategic missiles by 1996.

The first regime of Hades mobile tactical missiles with a range of more than 190 miles, which are due eventually to

replace the Pluton missile with a range of 754 miles, is to be brought into operation in 1992.

The plan envisages some reduction in conventional forces, but not as much as that originally planned last autumn. The Army will suffer the biggest cuts, losing some 22,000 of its 312,000 men, representing a reduction of 7 per cent. The 50,000 French troops stationed in West Germany will not, however, be cut. The Air Force is to lose 3,500 men, and the Navy 3,500.

At the same time, ground forces are to undergo a complete reorganization with the aim of increasing their ability to set rapidly and efficiently alongside their allies when required. France is not part of the Nato military command.

In particular, a new highly mobile force of 50,000 men will be created for possible use both within and outside Europe in addition to those already stationed in West Germany. A



M. Hernu

combat helicopter division will also be set up, and the number of combat helicopters increased from 330 to more than 430 by 1988.

Development on the new AMX battle tank will continue with the aim of bringing a total of 1,100 tanks into service at the beginning of the 1990s.

Procurement orders for France's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier are planned for 1986, with a planned commissioning date of the mid-1990s. Initially it will be equipped with Super-Étendard aircraft, but these will later be replaced by a maritime version of the tactical combat aircraft now under development.

The plan envisages that eight nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines will be in service or on order by 1988 instead of the five originally planned.

Defence remained one of the Government's top priorities, M. Hernu said at a press conference to introduce the proposed five-year plan that was approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday. "France must have the means to ensure its security... whatever the hazards of the economic situation, the national defence must not be sacrificed," he said.

The Bill incorporating the five-year plan provides for a total of 830,000 francs (£72,000m) to be spent of defence over the next five years, representing an increase in real terms of 11 per cent over the period. The share of defence spending is expected to rise from 4.2 per cent of gdp to more than 4.5 per cent (Nato definition of defence spending and gdp).

Marchais survives infighting

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Deep divisions within the French Communist Party have been temporarily papered over with the unanimous adoption by the party's Central Committee of a report by M. Georges Marchais, the General Secretary, reaffirming the party's commitment to remain in the Mitterrand Government.

M. Marchais, whose own future was also being widely questioned both within and outside the party, appears to have emerged from the two-day Central Committee meeting, held behind closed doors, with his position strengthened.

A special eight-page supplement in yesterday's *L'Humanité*, the official party newspaper, published in full M. Marchais' report to the Central Committee on Tuesday "without correction or touching up".

There had been suggestions that the delay in publication was to allow time for amendments after criticisms of the report by Central Committee members.

While admitting that there had been some criticism the Government's recent austerity measures, M. Marchais said that that should not hide the many positive achievements of the Socialist-Communist alliance

since coming to power nearly two years ago. "We have absolutely no reason to blush about the record of this Government, in which we have played a full part," he said. "No federation, no section, no cell, has called into question our participation in the Government. Only those who do not understand the policy of our party will be surprised."

In a 60-page "public letter" to the Central Committee earlier this week, M. Jean-Marie Thornier-Vermersch, the widow of a former general secretary of the party, who is commonly taken to represent the hardline pro-Moscow faction, accused the party of being "opportunistic", "Atlanticist", and of "having abandoned its revolutionary goals".

"For the first time in history, we see a Communist Party supporting, with the second austerity plan, a policy of open class collaboration directed against the interests of the people," she said. M. Marchais dismissed M. Vermersch's criticisms in a single sentence, saying that they were totally at odds with the strategy democratically adopted by the Communist Party at its last congress in 1982.

He made no reference to the

anonymous letter, signed by "militants having or having had important responsibilities with the party and in the trade union movement", circulating among party members, which was also sharply critical of the Government's policies. It accused the Socialist party of flirting with the right and remaining "profoundly anti-Soviet and anti-Communist".

The letter's writers said that they believed the Communist Party should remain in the Government, "but not at any price".

M. Marchais denied that the Communists were "the great losers" of last month's municipal elections, and claimed that the party was seeing the start of a revival of its influence.

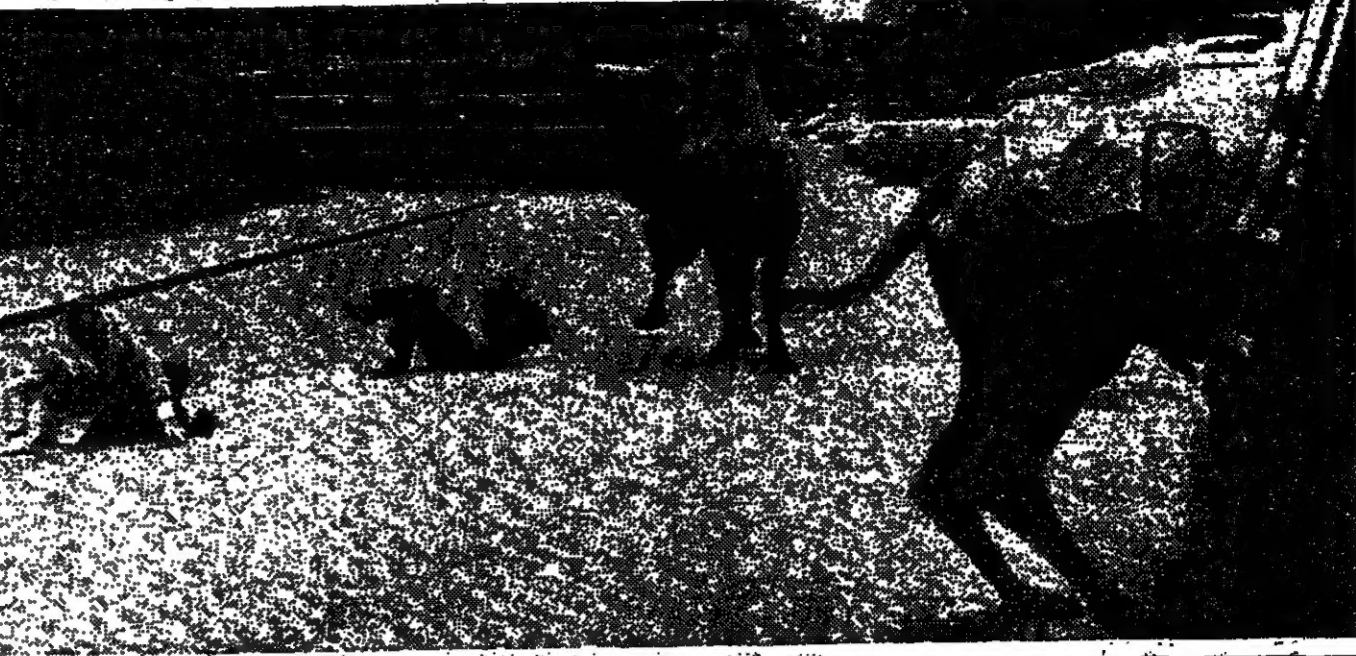
The latest unpublished opinion polls indicate, however, that support for the Communists has fallen to below 10 per cent, having been around 15 per cent in 1981, and 20-25 per cent in the 1970s.

The elections for the European Parliament are coming up next year, and it is thought that the Communists will want to remain in alliance with the Socialists at least until then, for fear of having the weakness of the present position publicly revealed.

The floundering camel train of Basle



The stunt that went wrong: A camel train which set out sedately (above) through the streets of Basle to publicize a bank's change of location, ended in high comedy (below) when one of the animals shed its load and bolted.



Priest sets picture of Pope alight

From Susan MacDonald, Lisbon

Father Juan Fernandes Krohn, the Spanish priest accused of attempting to assassinate the Pope in Portugal last May, made a brief but colourful court appearance yesterday.

Wearing a green cassock and open-toed sandals, he tried to set fire to a picture of the Pope when asked if he had anything to add to his defence.

He was first brought to trial last October when the judges asked for psychiatric tests to be carried out on the ultra-conservative priest.

He has now been pronounced fit to stand trial and at yesterday's hearing the prosecution asked for a six-year sentence for attempted murder and possessing a dangerous weapon.

However, the defence argued that despite Father Krohn's attempts to incriminate himself by his statements against the Pope, there was no evidence that he had tried to use the knife he was carrying, which was only found on him after his arrest. The trial has been suspended until May 2.

Congress will hear Reagan on Salvador

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan will make a rare appearance before a joint congressional session next Wednesday to seek support for his Central America policy and to try and rescue his endangered military aid package for El Salvador.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday narrowly voted to reject President Reagan's request for \$50m (£22m) in additional military aid for El Salvador.

He had sought the additional funds as part of a \$110m emergency military aid programme for El Salvador.

The House has also delayed for more than a month the President's request to transfer the remaining \$60m for military aid for El Salvador from other foreign aid accounts.

Administration officials said the President, in his televised speech on Wednesday night, proposed to issue fresh warnings about what he sees as threats from Nicaragua's Sandanista Government, which is backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union, to Central America through its backing of the left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador.

The *Washington Post* yesterday reported aides of the President as saying that he wanted to address a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate because his past speeches on Central America did not receive

Left blamed for Chile explosions

From Florencia Varas, Santiago

Señor Ramón Suárez, the Minister Secretary-General of the Chilean Government, has accused leftist groups, led by the Communist Party, of blowing up railway lines, causing electricity blackouts and planting bombs throughout the country. Señor Suárez emphasized that the Government was however, in control.

Two alleged members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) were killed on Tuesday by security forces in a clash near Nunda.

Security spokesmen identified the two as German Anibal Osorio Perez, aged 30, and Manuel Genaro Flores, aged 27, both exiles who had returned clandestinely to the country. According to the security forces, they had fired at a security patrol.

The Government has made no comment on the extradition request made by Argentine courts for Mr Michael Townley, who was born in America and is a former agent of the Chilean secret police. He is sought in connection with the murder of the Chilean General Carlos Prats and his wife, in Buenos Aires in 1979.

Mr Townley is completing a 10-year sentence in the US for the assassination of Senator Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean minister, in Washington in 1976.

Enemy of Machel killed in Pretoria

Maputo (Reuters AFP) - Orlando Cristina, a Portuguese national shot dead in South Africa, was regarded here as the principal figure behind a tiny rebel guerrilla movement that has shaken the Mozambique government of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

He was believed to be one of the top three men in the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance, which Mozambique and other black African states accuse Pretoria of training and equipping as part of a regional campaign of destabilization.

Cristina was found shot through the head in a Pretoria suburb on Sunday. South African police announced yesterday. They said an investigation was under way but no arrests had been made.

\$1bn turns up in 'black' cash

Istanbul (Reuters) - Well over a billion dollars (about 2670m) in previously undeclared earnings and assets, of "black money", has come to light under a special tax amnesty launched by the Turkish Government.

The money, 40 per cent of the cash in circulation in Turkey, turned up when the Finance Ministry said that all previously untaxed cash would become legal if it was deposited at the state agricultural bank for three days. Depositors who complied will have to pay a tax of only 1 per cent.

Former slave dies at 121

Chicago (AFP) - A former slave born two months after the American Civil War began has died here aged 121. Documents produced by the family of Mary Duckworth gave her birth date as June 4, 1861, in the state of Mississippi.

She had 12 children, including a son now 92, and her 30 descendants span six generations. She attracted going-out at an early age to having carried loads on her head.

Plea by wife

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One dissident held but Russia agrees to let another leave

The dissident writer Georgy Vladimov said yesterday that he had been told to report to the emigration office in Moscow next Tuesday to receive exit visas to West Germany for himself, his wife and his mother-in-law.

But on the same day, Mr. Naum Meiman, aged 72, a dissident, was taken into custody by the KGB and questioned by the Moscow city prosecutor on alleged anti-Soviet activities.

The decision to allow Mr. Vladimov to emigrate brings to an end a long struggle between the writer and the Soviet authorities. Mr. Vladimov was a well-known Soviet author until he became head of the Moscow branch of Amnesty International, and wrote a number of works critical of Stalinism and Soviet repressions.

He is best known in the West for his short novel, *Faithful Russian*, the allegorical tale of a

prison camp guard dog who cannot adapt to the ways which followed Khrushchev's partial dismantling of Stalin's Gulag system.

Last year Mr. Vladimov, who is 52, was told by the KGB to renounce his anti-Soviet activities and asked to name other dissidents. He refused, and wrote to Mr. Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, in January, reluctantly asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr. Vladimov told *The Times* that he had been formally invited to leave for a year on modern Russian literature at Cologne University.

"Of course I understand that if they let me go, I may not be going for one year but forever," Mr. Vladimov said. He said he would not be surprised if he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship once he was in the West.

Emigration was a very serious and difficult step,

especially for a writer of 52 who now risks losing contact with his native soil, he said.

Mr. Vladimov, who is in poor health and has already suffered one heart attack, said he would have preferred to leave Russia in the summer.

His case has been taken up by leading Western figures, including the West German writer Siegfried Lenz, and was the subject of talks between Herr Hans Jochen Vogel, the West German Social Democratic leader, and Mr. Andropov in Moscow in January.

Mr. Naum Meiman has been a leading human rights activist in Russia for many years, and is a founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group. The group, set up to monitor Soviet observance of the 1975 Helsinki agreements, was dissolved last September after sustained KGB pressure on its leaders, including Dr

Andrei Sakharov, the physicist, and his wife Elena Bonner.

Mr. Meiman has none the less continued to collect information on human rights abuses. The KGB searched his flat earlier this week and removed what is called "slandering anti-Soviet material" as well as his typewriter and a tape recorder.

Also active in the Jewish movement, Mr. Meiman has been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for nearly 10 years.

● **Americans held:** Two men in a group of American visitors were held by police for two hours yesterday after making a public demand for an exit visa for young music teacher Boris Molchanov, who married an American woman in 1979, AFP reports.

The group released multi-coloured balloons, bearing the words "Release Boris", inside the Hotel Cosmos hall and distributed pamphlets.



Trying again: Stancu Papusoi, the Romanian deported from Britain, applying for a British entry visa in Vienna yesterday.

Bases pact ratified by Spanish Parliament

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The Spanish Parliament has ratified by an overwhelming majority an agreement which allows the United States to continue using air and naval bases in Spain.

The powerful lower house, the Congress of Deputies, approved the agreement by 249 votes in favour, nine against, with seven abstentions. The only serious organised opposition to the proposal came from the Spanish Communist Party.

The text of the pact was the same as the one signed last July by the preceding Government, which was dominated by the Centre Democratic Union. But the addition of a protocol negotiated by the Socialist Government makes it clear that the agreement does not limit Spain's options with regard to its participation in Nato.

Without ratification of the pact, the US Air Force and Navy would have had one year to get out of Spain beginning next May 21.

The commitment, known as the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation, authorizes the United States to continue to operate from a big naval air base at Rota in the south-west, have air bases at Torrejon near Madrid, Moron, near Seville, and Zaragoza, as well as supply bases and communications installations in other parts of the country.

Drive stepped up to harass Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities appear to have intensified their campaign against the underground Solidarity movement in an attempt to stifle as many potential demonstrations as possible before the papal visit.

As underground activists prepare leaflets for the May Day rallies planned by Solidarity, police have moved in on several printing presses, rounding up many of the disbanded union's supporters.

The latest swoop came in Czeszochowa where the Pope is due to spend four nights during his June visit. Several thousand leaflets were confiscated, according to an official communiqué, 35 people were detained for questioning and at least eight have been formally arrested. More than nine cities are involved in the crackdown, and investigations are said to be particularly intensive in towns on the papal schedule including Katowice, Cracow and Poznan.

Some of these actions have involved arrests, in others, suspects were simply issued with warnings that if they took part in the May Day protests, arrest would follow.

This campaign is being accompanied by a propaganda drive against the underground leadership and Mr. Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, which is being accused of trying to sabotage the papal visit. The official commentaries never really make clear why such a cancellation would be in the interests of Solidarity. However, the tone leaves no doubt about the Government's response to Mr. Walesa's offer to

hold talks opening the way for national reconciliation.

The official view remains that Mr. Walesa represents nobody but himself and is therefore not a negotiating partner. A view that is reinforced (from the government perspective) by Mr. Walesa's openly declared contacts with the illegal underground Solidarity.

Mr. Walesa is therefore clearly not optimistic.

At the same time, the Polish Government is stepping up pressure on cultural associations, many of whom provided intellectual support to the Solidarity movement. The debate about whether the writers and film makers' union can be reactivated continues and the authorities have now decided to suspend the artists' union. This is because the leadership of the union has refused to retract eight statements released over the past year critical of the status quo.

Meanwhile the World Jewish Congress, one of the most important Jewish organizations taking part in the official ceremonies marking the fortieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has said that it will withdraw from the formal events after "a week of provocation and manipulation".

Many Jews have been critical of the way that the anniversary is being staged - above all the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization - and some have also been critical of the way that Solidarity turned one unofficial ceremony into a political rally.

Farm price rift over green rates

From Ian Murray Luxembourg

EEC agriculture ministers meet here again next Wednesday in an attempt to agree Community farm prices for the year ahead. The price package is already nearly a month overdue for agreement, and failure next week might well make it impossible for a settlement before June.

From Britain's point of view the remaining argument is a technical one, which Mr. Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, will be able to watch rather snugly from the sidelines.

He has already been assured that the prices themselves will rise by only a modest 4.2 per cent overall, which puts an end to the need for him to continue to argue for price restraint.

But next week's meeting threatens to be particularly difficult precisely because the price settlement is so low.

This means that the countries who are members of the European Monetary System exchanges can only obtain increases in line with the value of their "green" exchange rates, which adjust prices in line with the relative strength of real exchange rates.



Mr. Walker: Able to watch snugly from sidelines.

Britain is not a full member of the EMS and is therefore not involved in this argument, which enables Mr. Walker to take a detached view.

The country which stands to lose most from the present proposals from the Commission, which are to be discussed again next Wednesday, is West Germany. The strength of the Deutschmark is such that the current rate of the "green mark" has been pushed up to the point whereby it makes other countries very jealous.

France is particularly vexed because the difference between the green mark and the green franc means French farmers are paid up to a fifth less than their West German counterparts for exporting the same kind of product.

The commission is therefore trying to make West Germany accept a reduction in this weighted advantage, but this in turn means that West Germany would have to accept that its farmers received no increase at all for key products.

Mr. Walker showed early today that he was very understanding of the West German position.

Press challenges De Lorean ban

From Christopher Thomas, New York

An unprecedented ruling banning the release of court documents relating to the John De Lorean cocaine case in Los Angeles is being challenged by a series of American newspapers and television stations.

The reason for the ban has mystified editors who are accustomed to complete access to any document available to the court, even if it is not presented or read out.

Associated Press and the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner will challenge the ban before an appeals judge next week. When imposing it, District Judge Robert Talangian said merely that he was trying to ensure a fair trial for Mr. De Lorean. The case is due to begin in the summer.

Protests about the ban have also been formally presented to the judge by NBC News, CBS

News, and the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. The fear is that the ban will set a precedent for other criminal trials, which traditionally receive extensive pretrial publicity.

Associated Press protested that "there is nothing so special about this case or Mr. De Lorean's status that would warrant affording him this unprecedented protection".

100 found murdered in a cave

From Geoffrey Matthews Bogotá

The discovery of the remains of more than 100 peasants, apparently shot by drug racketeers, has caused horror and outrage in Colombia. The remains, estimated to be about six years old, have been found in a cave in an isolated region of the northern Cesar Department.

Señor Edgardo Pupo Governor of Cesar, said after visiting the cave that the massacre must have been "a real holocaust carried out with Nazi-style efficiency".

Cesar is one of the departments in Colombia's Atlantic-Caribbean region where racketeers have long been active in overseeing the cultivation of marijuana on a vast scale. Although over the last two years the region has ceased to be a centre of marijuana cultivation it remains the main point from which marijuana and cocaine are smuggled across the Caribbean to Florida by air or boat.

In recent years, the United States has estimated that Colombia has been the source of 80 per cent of both the marijuana and cocaine (processed in Colombia from coca paste brought in from Bolivia and Peru) consumed in North America. However, due to the increasing cultivation of marijuana in the United States the racketeers currently appear to be switching their priorities to cocaine production.

At the estimated time of the massacre, the Cesar department would still have been enjoying its "marijuana bonanza." Like many other peasants in isolated regions of Colombia, the victims of the massacre are thought to have cultivated marijuana for the racketeers for better money than they could earn from more traditional crops like cotton, rice or corn.

However, their earnings would have represented a tiny fraction of actual profits and one theory is that the massacre was caused by rebellion over wages. Another is that the racketeers staged a crude land seizure.

Señor Pupo declared bitterly: "This is a terrible event for the department, Colombia and the world, but especially for us in a civilized and democratic country which unfortunately has for some years been in the hands of drug traffickers who impose the law of death."

Turkey seeks Western aid against Armenians

Ankara (NYT) - Turkey has called on Western governments for help in preventing attacks on Turkish diplomats by radical Armenian groups.

It fears such attacks might increase as the anniversary approaches of mass arrests and deportations of Armenians from Istanbul on April 24, 1915. Under the Ottomans, most Armenians were deported to Syrian desert areas and hundreds of thousands died.

The Armenian patriarch of Istanbul has appealed to Armenians around the world to fight against Armenian extremists who have killed 26 Turkish diplomats in the past decade.

At a meeting of Nato defence ministers last month, Mr. Haluk Bayulken of Turkey asked for cooperation against Armenian attacks.

In addition, Mr. Iker Turkmen, the Foreign Minister, visited Beirut, believed to be the main base for Armenian activists. He flew there on March 17, six days after Mr. Galip Bulkar, Turkey's am-

bassador in Belgrade, died of gunshot wounds.

In Lebanon Mr. Turkmen met President Amin Gemayel and Mr. Ghazi al-Wazzan, the Prime Minister, and was said to have asked for help. He was reported to have pointed out that the two gunmen who shot the envoy in Belgrade travelled there on Lebanese passports.

Turkish officials have said they know little about the size, leadership and financing of the Armenian groups.

There appear to be two main groups. One is the Justice Commandos, described as pro-Western. The other is the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, said to be pro-communist. Its leadership is thought to have left Beirut for a base in Cyprus, Greece or France, according to some officials, but its members are said to remain in Lebanon.

Officials here said they believed the financing came essentially from Armenian businessmen, either out of conviction or through extortion.

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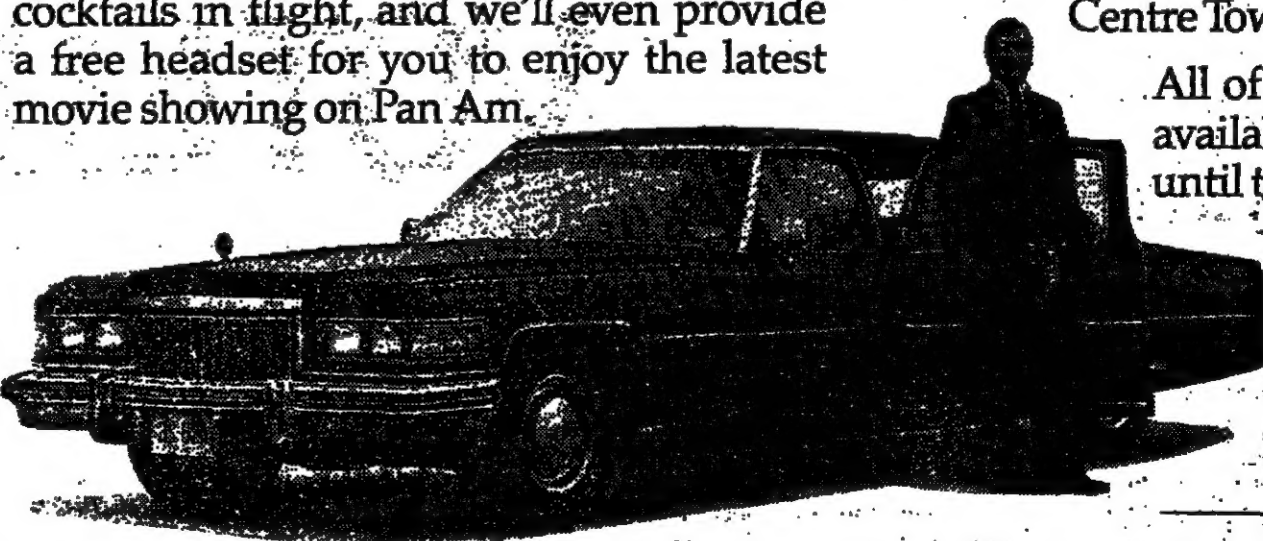
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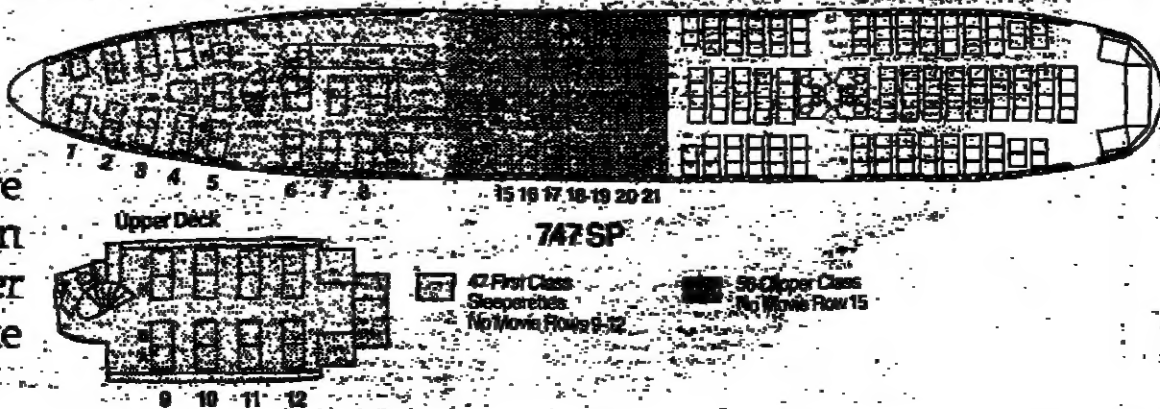
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All goes wrong on first sour day of tour for the royal couple

From Granis Forbes, P.A. Court Correspondent, Wellington

A series of rows overshadowed the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales in New Zealand yesterday as photographers downed cameras, a political agitator protested in court, some MPs felt snubbed because they had not received a special invitation, and a champagne toast went sour.

But under an overcast sky, from which came regular torrents of rain, the royal couple dutifully smiled throughout. It was the first unhappy day after five weeks on tour.

The four-week visit to Australia without a hitch and the representatives of the British press were surprised on Sunday to be greeted in Auckland with the news that the visit to New Zealand had been organised with only the local media in mind.

After days of pleading and argument, matters came to a head in Waiararua, when British journalists, who had faithfully followed the tour and made the Princess the star of hundreds of front pages on her first foreign visit, staged a boycott.

The final straw came when Mr Dick Butler, the media liaison officer in New Zealand, decided to prevent photographers from using a press lorry during a royal walkabout.

When British cameramen protested, he called the police and told security officers he was frightened the British contingent would smash up the lorry.

Reporters, who have been prevented from seeing the Prince and Princess during walkabouts by a line of white-helmeted police officers, agreed to join the protest and the walkabout through the city centre went unobserved by the British media.

It was agreed that the boycott would continue until matters were resolved with New Zealand Government officials.

After visiting a small Maori skill centre, the Prince and Princess went on to lunch with Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister.

Emotions were also running high at Wellington's District Court, where a tattooed Maori who bared his bottom to the Prince and Princess on Wednesday appeared before magistrates.

There was uproar when Mr Te Eka Mahuta and another protester, Mr Diana Prince, refused to enter the dock. Mr Mahuta, aged 41, described as a political agitator, denied a charge of disorderly behaviour. He said he would have pleaded guilty if the charge.

had been showing contempt for the Royal Family.

He was remanded to appear in court in June.

Some MPs were also unhappy last night at being excluded from a ball at Government House at which the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward were guests of honour.

At the ball, a champagne toast to the Queen's fifty-first birthday went sour when both the Prince and the Princess pushed their glasses aside after a token sip.

Disaster struck when Sir David Beattie, the Governor-General asked the 600 guests at the function to raise their glasses in a loyal toast. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than he realised that every glass of wine had been removed by diligent waitresses.

After an awkward pause the royal couple and those at the top table were given a small measure of Spanish champagne.

Both the Prince and Princess, after taking one sip from the bubbly, toyed with their glasses in embarrassment. As a waitress whisked the offending drinks away, Prince Charles tactfully remarked: "What a waste of champagne."



The Prince and Princess of Wales dancing at the Wellington ball last night. Space was at a premium and the royal couple were stranded at the edge of the floor.

Carrington derides 'megaphone diplomacy' with the Russians

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington called on the West last night to start a new dialogue with the Soviet Union, as opposed to a silent wall of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy".

The former Foreign Secretary also urged Europe to start playing a bigger defence role, but as a complement not an alternative to the Atlantic alliance.

He told the International Institute for Strategic Studies that he was not preaching a return to the détente policies of the 1970s. But we should be ready to do business with the Russians when it benefited both sides and when Moscow made it possible.

"Indiscriminate sanctions against the Soviet Union are neither feasible nor desirable. If they did not work against Mr Smith in Rhodesia, they are unlikely to bring down the Soviet empire," he said, in the annual Alastair Buchan memorial lecture.

It should not be our aim anyway to give them the excuse for strengthening their econ-

omic grip on Eastern Europe or repressing the aspirations of their own people.

Lord Carrington, who is now chairman of General Electric, said that the West had squandered its advantages in the past by what he called "competitive détente", offering semi-strategic exports at absurdly low interest rates in an undignified scramble for Eastern markets.

Now countries had over reacted by threatening to sever valuable trade links.

"I doubt if the Russians will be very impressed by these threats while America continues to supply them with bread and Europe with butter, and while the Poles go short of both."

In his most comprehensive review of international affairs since leaving the Foreign Office a year ago, Lord Carrington said we were witnessing the slow decline of the Soviet empire, but should beware of trying to bring down the crumbling edifice with one last shove.

"Our policy in Eastern Europe as elsewhere must be to encourage reform rather than

revolution. Sporadic convulsions ruthlessly put down by the Russians and their clients cannot be in the interests of these peoples themselves.

"The Russians must learn and we must do what we can to teach them over the years that their security interests are not best served by an endless cycle of repression, but by giving the people of Eastern Europe a voice in their own destiny."

In an analysis of how Europe could pull its weight more effectively within Nato, he favoured a better division of labour between the member states, with Britain concentrating her own contribution through the Royal Navy.

The British, he said, with European and American support, had just sailed 8,000 miles to protect a handful of their kith and kin on a remote island. Could anyone doubt that we would fight to protect 55 million people at home?

There was now a little less talk about neutralism in Western Europe.

Leading article, page 13

French nuclear test causes outrage

Wellington (AFP) New Zealand and Australia yesterday condemned France's latest underground nuclear test explosion in the South Pacific, with the former saying that it would revive "feelings of outrage" in the region.

In Canberra, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, expressed deep disappointment

that France had gone ahead with the tests despite the strong opposition his Government had conveyed earlier this month. He expected to discuss the matter in Paris next month.

There was no immediate official reaction to the French explosion elsewhere in Asia, but a Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated the coun-

try's general opposition to nuclear testing in the Pacific.

New Zealand scientists yesterday confirmed that France had exploded a 50-kiloton-yield nuclear bomb on Wednesday at its underground Mururoa test site. It is believed to be the first French nuclear test since a 70-kiloton explosion last July.

Soviet drive against Afghan insurgents

Delhi (NYT) - A Western diplomat here has said that a big Soviet-led offensive was under way in north-west Afghanistan against insurgent positions. Heavy casualties were reported in the fighting, which was said to be continuing on the outskirts of Herat, near the Iranian border.

The informant quoted a diplomatic report from Kabul as saying that Soviet and Afghan troops have opened the assault after making heavy air attacks on areas around Herat suspected of sheltering Muslim guerrillas opposed to the Babrak Karmal regime.

The drive, which apparently began some time this month, is reported to have come in the wake of big insurgent attacks on Soviet and Afghan forces. The offensive, came amid preparations in Kabul for observances of the fourth anniversary of the military coup of April 27, 1978, which placed the first of three pro-Soviet Marxist governments in power in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting was also reported this month between Soviet troops and insurgents around the cities of Kandahar, Ghazni and Mazar-i-Sharif near the Afghan-Soviet frontier.

An insurgent success was reported from the northern Panjshir Valley, through which the main highway connecting

Kabul with the Soviet Union runs. These three rival Afghan insurgent factions were reported to have joined forces for an ambush on April 1 of a large Soviet-Afghan military convoy.

Some Russian soldiers were reported to have been killed.

The three rebel groups involved in what the diplomat said was a rage display of unity were identified as the Hezbe-i-Islami, the Jamat-i-Islami and the Harakat-i-Islam. The diplomat said Mr Ahmed Rzaoud, the guerrilla leader in the valley, did not participate.

On April 4, guerrillas were reported to have overrun a military post in southern Kabul, killing or capturing all the troops. The insurgent were said to have been aided by an Afghan soldier at the post.

The Diplomatic report added that Kabul had been relatively quiet recently. On April 3, however, a noisy and violent demonstration erupted in the centre of the capital after a Soviet soldier shot and killed a young Afghan student during a brief quarrel.

Hundreds of Kabul residents were said to have shouted anti-Soviet slogans and hurled rocks at the Russian soldier and his vehicle after the shooting. Order was restored when Afghan troops arrived, disarmed the Russian and took him away.

AUSTIN ROVER



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Bonn given border death details

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

An East-West German transit commission meeting in East Berlin yesterday discussed in detail the death of a West German traveller in East Germany as the reverberations of the affair continued to echo through political circles here.

The East Germans delivered a detailed explanation of how Herr Rudolf Burkert met his death, and this has been passed on to Bonn. East Germany has meanwhile invited a West German forensic expert to make an on-the-spot investigation and talk to witnesses and to the interrogating officers.

The West Germans complained to the commission of the increasing harassment of travellers to West Berlin.

Newspapers gave a warning yesterday that people who gave even chocolate or cigarettes to East Germans in route could face fines of up to 700 marks (£180). They said border guards were increasingly resorting to spot checks on the air pressure in spare tyres and imposing instant fines in cases of infringement of the regulations.

Meanwhile the Social Democratic opposition has sharply attacked Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union, for his claim that Herr Burkert was murdered.

The SPD said he was trying to force the Government of change its policies towards East Germany, and said ideology was more important to him than a patient striving for the alleviation of human conditions in East Germany.

Survivors tell of yacht attack

Hongkong (Reuters) - Four survivors of the attack on a West German yacht in the South China Sea had to bury a friend at sea when he died only a day before they were rescued after nine days adrift, the skipper said yesterday.

Herr Peter Marx described how his 51ft yacht Sidarta was hit and set ablaze by artillery fire as it approached Vietnamese-occupied Amboyna Cay Island, one of the remote, disputed Spratly Group, on Easter Sunday.

He said the attackers, whom he would not identify, had fired no warning shots, were flying no flag and "obviously did not want any witnesses". "You can work out for yourself who they were," he said in a radio-telephone interview from the cargo ship which picked up the survivors from a small dinghy on Tuesday in the busy sea lanes between Singapore and Hongkong.

Herr Diethelm Müller was killed during the attack but Herr Gero Band survived until Monday, though badly hurt.

"I made a thorough check that he was no longer alive," Herr Marx said. "We said a prayer. Then we had to push him over the side. It was very sad." Next day they were spotted.

● BONN: the Bonn Government yesterday condemned the shelling of the Sidarta and a Foreign Ministry statement said Bonn would make representations to the country responsible as soon as it was absolutely clear who had fired on the yacht.

Hanoi condemns Peking

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam accused China yesterday of another cross-border operation and renewed shelling attacks. A communique carried by the official Vietnam news agency said that Chinese gunners had fired 50 mortar rounds on a village in Cao Bang province, killing two people and wounding four others.

It said that a group of between eight and 10 Chinese soldiers had entered the north-west Vietnamese province of Hoang Lien Son and opened fire on the population, wounding a certain number of people.

The same day, the communique said, dozens of Chinese shells fell on a part of Cao Bang and the neighboring province of Ha Tuyen. It did not indicate what the casualties were.

SPECTRUM

Seventy-four years ago, Jewish idealists built the first kibbutz. Today it is a thriving community, but are the ideals still relevant?

Fading blooms of the desert

By Christopher Walker

Tiberias, Israel
If the handful of hardy Jewish pioneers who came here from the freezing corners of Russia and Poland 74 years ago to found Degania, the first ever kibbutz, were able to return to inspect their idealistic creation on what were once the malaria-infested shores of Lake Kinneret it is doubtful that they would recognize it — or approve of what it has become.

As if to symbolize the dramatic transformation which has overtaken the whole of the kibbutz movement, the first communally-owned cattle shed built in the searing heat 650 feet below sea level has recently been converted into an air-conditioned luxury cinema. Close by, the imposing water tower that once provided a vital lifeline is now empty, its contents replaced by a computer terminal controlling the advanced irrigation system of the 100-acre complex of industry and agriculture which boasts an annual turnover of \$10m a year.

The 600 members — like those of the movement as a whole, more than 90 per cent of them are Ashkenazim, or Israelis of European descent — have access to their own water skis and sailing boats, car pool, floodlit tennis courts, a newly-opened Olympic size swimming pool, riding stables and an in-house video system installed because it proved the only way of maintaining the kibbutz tradition of a weekly general meeting in the face of competition from Israel TV's most popular sports programme. This is now recorded so that the kibbutzniks can watch it later, having attended the forum which still takes all decisions communally, either by show of hands or secret ballot.

Instead of the original system of a battered cash box and an accompany-

ing "honesty book" which provided Degania residents with their only access to ready cash, all members have cheque books and an overall budget which they are free to spend as they choose — dangerously close, some argue, to the dreaded concept of a wage. Most also prefer to eat their evening meals at home in their kitchenettes — less humble than those to be found in many Israeli homes — rather than trek to the communal dining hall. But all still have to do their regular turn of waiting on their fellows.

"Like every other institution in Israel, we have had to adapt to circumstances, to change in order to survive, and we think that so far we have succeeded", explains Yoya Shapira, the sprightly 63-year-old daughter of Joseph Baratz, one of Degania's nine original founders. On the wall of her modest house, the closest to the shimmering lake, the photo of her mother's formidable hands — she was the kibbutz milkmaid for more than 30 years — contrasts with the gleaming colour television set now provided free to all Degania families and the telephone installed in each of their houses.

"Of course people from outside, Israelis as well as foreigners, find it hard to reconcile these facilities with their image of a socialist community", explains Ron Shapira, Yoya's thoughtful son, who lives with his wife in a house about 300 yards from his parents. He is one of only 50 per cent of kibbutz-born children who now opt to stay living in the system — which, he readily admits, many of his fellow countrymen tend to see as anachronistic and damagingly elitist. "They tend to regard us as living in a country club, but for those who belong, these possessions are nothing more than a



Top: The first stone house in Kibbutz Degania stands as a symbol of idealism to the kibbutzniks of today. Above left: The way it was — an isolated settlement on the banks of the Jordan. Above right: The pioneers who founded Degania.

family would buy itself as it got richer."

Another kibbutznik from a younger and smaller community puts the matter more bluntly: "When you are still poor like we are, it is much easier to be ideologically pure."

There are now 276 kibbutzim inside Israel and the occupied territories, accounting for a total membership of 120,000 people, or roughly 3.6 per cent of the population. Just as no kibbutz can be described as representative of the whole, so the type of society to be found inside kibbutzim bears little resemblance to Israel outside, where nearly 60 per cent of the population are Sephardic or Oriental Jews.

Originally born of a peculiarly Jewish fusion of social and national ideals associated with the type of pioneer who gave truth to the age-old cliché of "making the desert bloom", the kibbutz has recently become the target of attack from right-wingers who now make up the majority of Israeli voters. One observer likened the

movement to "a burnt-out rocket" which had achieved its original aim and was no longer relevant. When the Archbishop of York spent a holiday on a Jordan valley kibbutz, the political editor of the *Jerusalem Post* described it acidly as the Israeli equivalent of a visit to an English state home.

In the early 1970s, a commentator compared the role of the kibbutz in Israeli life with Eton's in the British Conservative Party because of the high proportion of kibbutzniks filling top cabinet posts. But since the election of the first right-wing Israeli Government in 1977, the continued close association of the movement with the opposition Labour Party has contributed to its increasing isolation from political influence. It is estimated that only 2 per cent of kibbutz voters supported Menachem Begin in the 1981 election.

During that violent campaign, the Prime Minister reinforced the prejudice about the privileged life of kibbutzniks by portraying them as

"millionaires" luxuriating in their swimming pools while the townspeople had suffered not so "benign neglect" under Labour rule. A much cruder message was contained in a notorious election pamphlet depicting kibbutzim as a many-headed monster devouring the population of Israel's poor development towns.

The majority of kibbutzniks, who because of their high standard of education tend to be among the most articulate and cultured of Israelis, are acutely conscious of the problem, which is related to one of the fundamental changes in the movement — the switch from agriculture to industry. The original tenet forbidding the employment of outside labour has long been discarded, although one of the two main kibbutz groups is now attempting to rectify matters by imposing financial sanctions from member communes that do not move away from hiring outsiders. "It is hard for us to be socialist allies of poor Israelis and their employers at the

same time", explains David Twersky, ex-editor of the Kibbutz magazine *Shdemot*.

The switch to industry is illustrated by the statistics. In 1950 there were only 50 factories throughout the whole movement; by 1982 this had reached 325, often grouped on a regional basis with an enviable productivity record. In all, they employed 30 per cent of their labour from outside, a proportion that seriously concerns those who fear the ideological cement of the movement is gradually being eroded.

Just as immediately after the Second World War, kibbutz elders fretted about whether their experimental institution would survive the import of the radio sets and coffee pots being brought back from Europe by returning soldiers, there is now concern about whether the uniquely Israeli version of communal Utopia can survive the television, the family dining table and the growing pressure from parents to have their children sleeping at home.

Because of demands from second and third generation kibbutzniks who have now become parents (men and women tend to marry inside the movement, but not inside their own kibbutz, where a surrogate sibling relationship predominates), more and more kibbutzim are voting to keep their children at home overnight.

"It was a very traumatic decision, but most parents agree it was a right one", explains Mrs Karen Lior, the mother of two children whose kibbutz near Tel Aviv made the move last year after months of heated arguments. "When they were sleeping centrally, the system always broke down when the kids played up, because in the end the parents had to be called to handle them."

Kibbutzniks frequently refer to their way of life as a repository of many of the old-fashioned virtues in a fast-changing urban society. "We are one of the few places in 1983 where the extended as well as the nuclear family is thriving", argues Twersky, who at the age of 33 is regarded as one of the up and coming leaders of the kibbutz movement.

With singles weekends now centrally organized for lonely members, beauty salons an accepted feature of many kibbutzim and the atmosphere more often than not that of a merciful, rural retreat from the asphalt jungle of Israel's urban sprawl, the reality of kibbutz living is now radically altered from the vision of its founding fathers.

By a bitter irony for a Marxist-socialist movement which started out rejecting the religious norms of traditional Jewish life in the European ghettos, the pioneering mantle once carried by the kibbutz is now being claimed by Gush Emunim (The Block of the Faithful), the extreme religious-nationalist movement which under the Begin Government has spearheaded the wave of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Much as western statesmen anxious for Middle East peace may regret it, there now seems little chance of the clock being turned back. In present day Israel the bearded, heavily armed zealots of the Gush have become the pace-setters while the more moderate kibbutz movement appears to be moving contentedly into middle age.

Burton and Taylor are together again, but only on stage

A public playback of private lives

They agreeably went away and returned later to ask if, perhaps, the kitchen could still do eggs. It did.

At the Copley Plaza, where Miss Taylor and her entourage have 20 rooms, the atmosphere has been equally quiet. Miss Taylor has been using a side door to come and go, virtually unrecognizable.

Rehearsals have been closed to the press. The actors had only three weeks to rehearse, and faced with what Zev Bufman, the producer, said

were requests in the hundreds. Miss Taylor and Burton decided to grant no interviews. They have held firm, keeping mainly to their rooms, working on their lines. Bufman said, but even so, the first performance in Boston came before the cast of five had "run through" a full rehearsal.

Roused by the town's chance of watching the former Burtons' play, characters so closely patterned on the play of their own lives, Boston has rushed to the ticket window, grabbing all 1,750 seats in the Shubert Theater for all 17 performances. New York sales have also been tremendous.

Producer Bufman denies the rumour that Miss Taylor and Burton are getting \$78,000 a week each for the production. But, he says, they are getting more money than a Broadway actor or actress has ever received in a play-and when the play closes in Los Angeles, he says, the cast will tape *Private Lives* for showing on Home Box Office cable, in a deal negotiated for close to \$3m. Additionally, the tape will be used as a film in cinemas in Europe and elsewhere.

The treasury for all this coin is the Elizabeth Theatre Group, a production company formed by Bufman and the 51-year-old, slimmed down Miss Taylor. Bufman produced *The Little Foxes* two years ago, in which Miss Taylor made her Broadway debut.

Burton, who has spoken candidly of his battles with alcoholism — he freely admits that he has days or weeks when he goes on a binge, but not when he works, Bufman says — appears dry but, if not chasing Miss Taylor slowly around a table or simply rising from a couch, carries himself as carefully as a waiter would glasses on a flimsy tray.

Aged 57, he underwent surgery on the vertebrae in his neck, a procedure called a cervical laminectomy, in April 1981, after being forced to drop out of *Camelot* in California. He resumed acting in January 1982, but was still wearing a neck brace a month ago when he began rehearsals for *Private Lives*. He is said to have since cast it off, and indeed, he seemed a bit more vigorous in Wednesday night's performance than he did on Tuesday — the result, perhaps, of chasing Miss Taylor about the stage six days a week.

Like old times, the audience assumes "You know," said Betty Hourihan, the wife of a Boston lawyer, after watching Burton pursue Miss Taylor round a table, "you think you're watching their real lives."

Or, as Burton whispered to Miss Taylor after a crowd swept away the rest of their party and pressed in on the two of them at the couple's one appearance at a public benefit last week: "Here we go again."

Dudley Cieminden
© New York Times, 1983

The hidden depths of clam chowder

Some years ago I was sitting in the library of the United Slaves Information Service in Grosvenor Square. I must have been there for a purpose — perhaps the end of the visa queue was in there that day — but I have no recollection of what it was. All I can remember is that the phone suddenly rang in the calm of the library and an efficient American librarian went to answer it.

"Hello," she said. There was a pause. Then she said, "Hold on, I'll look it up for you." She put the phone down and turned to a colleague, "Jesus Christ, she said bitterly. "Can you imagine a guy ringing up to find out what the state flower of Georgia is? Was it for this I went to college?"

Well, yes, I can imagine someone ringing up to find out that sort of useless information. It's the only sort that ever sticks with me. I am a compulsive reader of small, useless instructions, of lists of ingredients on boxes of credits at the end of films. Who is Omelette and why is he Caffer? What is disodium inosinate, and how does it improve clam powder? These are the kinds of question I want to ask. I am not sure I want to know the answers, but I very much want to ask the questions.

It is for this reason that I have hanging over my desk a small dossier of clippings from here and there, which I have left till they should mature into a small piece for *The Times*, a piece full of unanswered questions and, I hope, a sort of plaintive poetry. Poetry? Certainly. If a list of anything goes on long enough, as Beachcomber proved with the Huntingtonshire cabmen, it acquires a strange lyrical quality.

Take the clam chowder, for instance. It contains, or did when I typed the label off the tin, the following ingredients: water, potatoes, carrots, tomato paste, clams and clam juice, partially hydrogenated vegetable oil (soybean and/or cottonseed), modified food starch, sweet red peppers, celery, salt, dehydrated onions, hydrolyzed vegetable protein,

MOREOVER... Myles Kington

natural flavors, dextrose, onion powder, garlic powder, monosodium glutamate (a flavor enhancer), sugar, dehydrated parsley, yeast, torula yeast, artificial colors, cellulose gum, carob bean gum, citric acid, malic acid, spices, disodium inosinate and disodium guanylate (flavor enhancers).

More than 30 participants in one small can of soup. There is something rather grand about that, or at least there is after the fifteenth item. Occasionally, it is one special item that sticks out. I have here an advert for the Hotel Prince de Galles, Paris, and their offerings at brunch. "Danish pastries, smoked sturgeon, scrambled eggs à la Kiwi, crab beignets, Yorkshire sausages" — all very nice, but then suddenly: "Shredded wheat à la Surrey." A la Surrey? Can anyone down there help me?

More poetry of a kind turns up on a wrapper from a Jamaica ugli fruit.

"Ugli is best when chilled. A couple of hours in your refrigerator before serving will bring its texture and flavour to perfection. Cut the ugli in half with a serrated or sharp knife. Sprinkle lightly with sugar. Leave it for two or three minutes to start the juice flowing freely. Now the flavour changes from the wonderful to the fabulous. Eat your ugli with a pointed spoon. The few seeds are dropped into the convenient centre hole."

For out-and-out poetry I turn to the packet once containing Weleda salt toothpaste ("it contains no detergent and is therefore non-foaming") and merely transcribe their ingredients. "Sea salt, extracts of krameria, myrrh, and horsechestnut, blackthorn fruit juice, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate, sodium silicate, aesculin, methyl cellulose (thickener), silica, vegetable glycerine, essential oils of lavender, clove, geranium, sage, eucalyptus, aniseed and peppermint, menthol, homeopathic potency of arum lily ash."

After all these years I cannot

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 44)

remember what the state flower of Georgia is but I can tell you the state flower of Pennsylvania is mountain laurel. I owe this information to Robert Engel, a lawyer from Pittsburgh who writes to me occasionally, under the impression that I am thirsting for information about Pittsburgh. Americans are so thorough that even his writing paper contains ingredients — or rather, it lists the 47 lawyers in his law firm. They seem to improve in flavour towards the end; the last 13 reads as follows: Charley J Imbrie, Vasilis C Katsalanas, Harry F Kiodowski Jr, Stanley J Lehman, Lawrence P Lutz, Jeffery B Markel, Alison G Poccia, Ronald J Ricci, Dean F Richardson, Philip M Sprinkle III, Stephen C Veltri, Gary Walk and Sidney Zonn.

I do not know about you, but I like Philip M Sprinkle III best. One of the more recent pamphlets I have received from Mr Engel is entitled *Significant Incidents in the History of Pittsburgh*. As there are only

eleven of these, including a fire and the opening of Pittsburgh's first cinema, I will not go into them on this occasion, but I am held transfixed by the state information on Pennsylvania. The state dog is the Great Dane. The state tree is the hemlock. The state animal is the white tail deer. The state bird (are you getting into the spirit of this?) is the ruffed grouse. But, and this is where a note of melancholy creeps in, the final entry reads: "State song — there is no official song."

No song for Pennsylvania? What then do they sing when they get together leading their great dances, wearing their mountain laurels and wave their state flags (state colours are blue and gold)? I do not know. I am not sure I want to know. But there is a hint at the end of the pamphlet for additional information on Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, they say, "consult The Encyclopedia Britannica" (Volume P).

Is this the only work written on Pennsylvania? Will it tell why they have no song? Or, indeed, why they cannot even spell Britannica correctly? I think we should not be told.

ACROSS
1 Crustaceans (7)
5 Mother (5)
8 Definite article (3)
9 Part down (7)
10 Deceitful plan (5)
11 Mid leg (4)
12 Insert (3,4)
14 From that time on (6,7)
16 Fragrant scent (7)
18 As well (4)
21 Scottish pilot (5)
22 Small guitar (7)
23 Split (5)
24 Wary (5)
25 Temporary possession (7)

DOWN
1 Stitched (4)
2 Prevail (5)
3 Homeland (6,7)
4 Unduly high (5)
5 European sea (13)
6 Virgin Mary (7)
7 Throat tissue (8)
13 Not usual (8)
15 Aural vent (3,4)
17 Burst out (5)
19 Rear (5)
20 Withhold (4)

SOLUTION TO No 43
ACROSS: 1 Shrick 5 Lesson 8 Era 9 Advent 10 Banker 11 Beta 12 Helmsman 13 Instep 15 Safety 17 Autista 20 Rate 22 Thwart 23 Deacon 24 Awi 25 Synphon 26 Emerge
DOWN: 2 Hedge 3 Inexact 4 Ketchup 5 Label 6 Sinus 7 Elegant (Solution to No 44 on Monday) The dictionary recommended is the New Collins Concise



Star-crossed lovers: Burton and Taylor kiss for a curtain call after playing *Private Lives*

مكتبة لادان

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Life-saving screen tests



Cancer of the breast and of the ovary together account for more than 16,000 deaths in British women every year. The figures would be dramatically reduced if diagnoses were made earlier.

Screening breasts with soft tissue X-ray, mammography, enables radiologists to find the tumour when it is still so small that it is impossible to feel with the hand. At this stage a patient's chances of complete recovery are good.

Professor Stuart Campbell, who screens patients with ultrasound at King's College Hospital, hopes to be able to recognize such small changes in the size and shape of the ovary that cancer may be diagnosed at a stage when treatment will be able to change the present 75 per cent death rate to 90 per cent cure rate.

Further advances in screening are announced this week by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Dr Richard Bulbrook and his team in cooperation with Mr John Hayward from Guy's Hospital, have for the past 20 years been analysing the blood and urine of 13,000 Guernsey women.

Significant abnormalities have been detected in the hormone levels in the urine of women who later developed breast cancer. For 10 years before a cancer can be detected the urine of women at greatest risk contains less than usual amounts of androgen steroid metabolites. Postmenopausal women who have higher than usual blood levels of prolactin, another hormone, have twice the risk. Hormonal patterns in women who are at risk of cancer of the ovaries are also found to be abnormal.

Not only will these biochemical findings be particularly useful in that they extend and complement the radiological means of early diagnosis which already exist; but the Imperial Cancer Research workers hope that it may be possible to find means of changing the hormonal balance in a patient so that these particular cancers become less common.

There is evidence that taking the Pill, which is one way of changing the hormone balance, does achieve this.

An eternal race

This year is the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the death of William Thackeray and the intellectual end of London clubland is honouring his memory: the Reform has already had a dinner to pay its respects, the Athenaeum is holding a reception in July. The irony is that, if the great man had been in a position to attend in body rather than in spirit, the wine drunk would certainly have exacerbated the distress he suffered from a post gonococcal urethral stricture. Appropriately, in this year gonorrhoea is again in the news.

Effective treatment of gonorrhoea became possible only with the introduction of sulphonamides in the 1930s; before then patients were subjected to bladder and urethral wash-outs with powerful antiseptic solutions, procedures euphemistically known as deep irrigation. After this treatment about 5 per cent of the sufferers developed, as did Thackeray, varying degrees of urinary tract obstruction, probably more likely to have been due to the use of the instruments than the disease itself. Since the 1930s there has been a recurring story of an apparently miracle drug being found to treat gonorrhoea, only for the bacteria to become resistant to it.

The value of sulphonamides as a treatment was rendered useless by the way in which the Germans made it readily available, without supervision, to their troops in Italy. Penicillin, despite being very scarce, superseded sulphonamides in the British Army on the express orders of General Montgomery, but this, in its turn has been beaten by some of the strains of the gonococcal bacteria bred during and after the Vietnam war producing an enzyme which destroys penicillin.

Fortunately, two comparatively new antibiotics, cefotaxime and cefotaxin are available, but if the race between gonorrhoea and science continues, sooner or later the bacteria may go into the lead.

Beating breakdowns

When Beryl Downington, *Times* shopping editor, was treated for breast cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital this month, she had radiotherapy with the first Varian standing wave linear accelerator in Britain (The *Times*, April 20). It is due to be opened officially by Sir Eric Scowen next Wednesday.

The NHS could not afford to replace the existing, old machine, so the special trustees of the hospital, a charitable organization, paid more than £250,000 for a new American one. This cost of the installation was borne by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund as a major contribution in support of the work it does with the Cancer Unit at Bart's.

Increasingly, radio cobalt units have been replaced by travelling wave linear accelerators. The manufacturers of the Varian machine standing wave accelerator claim that the new machine has the advantage of greater reliability and improved focusing.

Doctors always try to ensure that a patient's programme of treatment, which has to be carefully calculated, should not be compromised by equipment failure; by reducing the electronic complexity of the linear accelerator the possibility of breakdown is reduced.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
Medical correspondent

The many lives of Lana Turner



It is less than 10 minutes from Lana Turner's high-rise condominium in Beverly Hills to my hotel, but she arrives in a chauffeur-driven limousine, accompanied by her hairdresser.

Miss Turner is 62 and she has been a Hollywood star for 45 years. Other sex symbols - Harlow and Hayworth, Mansfield and Monroe - have self-destructed, but the original Sweater Girl has survived seven marriages, dozens of highly publicized love affairs, the fatal stabbing of her gangster lover by her 14-year-old daughter, a drinking problem and, among such classics as *The Bad and the Beautiful* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, some pretty awful films.

She knows that a star never agrees to go anywhere without a limousine, a chauffeur and a hairdresser, never goes out unless she is looking her best. "When I leave home, I'm on," she says.

Her entrance is impeccably gracious. A tilt of the short blonde hair-do, newly crimped by her escort. A hand, tipped by perfect pink nails of alarming length, extended in warm greeting. She sashays elegantly across the room in well cut black slacks, a tasteful glittery blouse and high-heeled black slippers. The movie queen up there on the screen with the big bust is, in fact, petite. That's the word she would use. I think just 5ft 3in with the flawless face and figure of a well preserved 30-year-old, and if plastic surgery has helped a bit, we should all try it.

Miss Turner - you don't find yourself calling her "Lana" - speaks slowly, with a lot of lovely hand gestures, and her language is relentlessly refined.

She was discovered in the ice cream parlour opposite her school when she was 15 and became a star with her first film, when she was 17. She went to school on the MGM lot with the young Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, gossiped and

Shirley Lowe meets the woman who kept a generation of gossip writers busy

giggled over lunch at Romanoff's with Linda Darnell and Betty Grable. "We never stepped out without gloves and a hat," she says. "We were glamorous and we looked it. They were beautiful, beautiful years. I knew the golden era of Hollywood."

It was, she says, "all innocent fun" and, until she was 17, her only sexual experience was necking and a little petting. "I'd always fought off my eager young dates when they wanted to touch my breasts." Three or four husbands on, Miss Turner is still "dating", referring to her "engagement ring" and noting, as she sighs a good looking man, that her "heart beats a little faster".

Her hand is on her heart now as she says: "Thank God I was never called on to do nude scenes. I watch some of the things today and even when they kiss - the mouths opening before they get together, the tongues lashing in and out, the bodies grinding - it's all so different from the beautiful kisses we had with our lovely leading men." She blows delicate little kisses into the air. "It offends me, it's ugly. I turn my eyes away."

Louis B. Mayer once summoned the young Lana to his office and berated her for keeping late hours and getting her name in the papers: "The only thing you're interested in is..." and he pointed to his crotch. The world has been inclined to agree with Mr Mayer, after reading countless tales about Miss Turner's insatiable way with her leading men and good-looking stagehands. Yesterday, she published her autobiography, *Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth*, to set the record straight.

She is, she says, a sensual woman but not a sexy one. "The public has always seen me as a sexpot, jumping

in and out of bed with men all the time and having romances, but most times I married my romances."

Writing about her time with Tyrone Power, who broke her heart by marrying Linda Christian rather than Lana when his divorce came through, she confesses that she was not a great companion in bed: "What we shared was far more important than the physical side of our love... sex was never, with any man, the first thing on my mind. It was so much what I symbolized, so much of my image, that I closed myself off to the pleasures of the act. Holding hands, cuddling, being close together in bed, all those intimacies I enjoyed more than the actual sex... his gentleness was part of the reason I loved him."

Stars in the 1940s and 1950s were expected to be pure in public and the Turner-Power affair made headlines. "In those days you didn't live with someone, you married them," says Miss Turner. "Just look at what happened to Ingrid Bergman when she defied the studios and had Rossellini's babies without marrying him."

Lana Turner had two abortions for propriety's sake and it sometimes seems as though her life has been ruled by reporters. "If I blew my nose wrong they'd write about it," she says, "and if they had nothing to write about they'd say: 'Let's see what we can make up about Lana Turner today.'" On the morning after her third marriage, to society playboy Bob Fosse, Lana and her bridegroom stepped out of their honeymoon bungalow to find Hedda Hopper finishing up the remains of their breakfast and waiting for an "exclusive" on the wedding night.

"She was a crass, rude woman," says Miss Turner, "but what do you

do? Tell her to get her so and so and so out of here?" It was when this marriage failed that Miss Turner attempted suicide. "My love hadn't been enough. I was completely unlovable, a wholly unworthy human being."

This was the weakest moment of her life. Somehow, she has always found the strength to cope with public humiliation and private rejection; when her marriages failed, when her men deserted her, when she was censured over the upbringing of her daughter, Cheryl, had a classic Hollywood childhood with lavish parties and furs and strings of stepfathers and ponies and a mother who, with the best will in the world, was forced to spend more time in the studio than the nursery. There were "special" schools and psychiatric centres and plenty of publicized rows between mother and daughter, but Cheryl, now 39, is running a successful real estate business in Honolulu and has turned out better than Miss Turner ever hoped: "I not only love her as a mother, I respect her. I'm the first to look at her and say: 'I like that young woman.'"

The two of them still find it impossible to talk freely about the terrible night when Cheryl stabbed Johnny Stompanato to death with a kitchen knife after she heard him threatening to beat up her mother. They call it "the happening." But, in spite of the trial justifiable homicide) and the trauma of seeing her child behind bars, Lana Turner went on to an Oscar nomination, to a successful theatre career, to the unlikely role of a grandmother in a television series called *Falcon Crest*.

"Many times I've said, 'This, too, will pass,'" she says. "Now, I can say, 'Okay, it's not going to come too close. I will come up and over this and be a better person.' I guess there was always a bit of that in me."

Ever since she eloped with bandleader Artie Shaw, when she

Changing faces of a screen goddess

The changing face of Lana Turner during her 45-year Hollywood reign. Left, with her mother and daughter, Cheryl; above, as she is today and, right, in her pin-up days.



was 19 and he promised her marriage and children and a cottage with roses round the door (the marriage lasted four months), Lana Turner has had a man in her life: "I married seven of them and I'm not proud of it. I always felt that a man would make my life complete, only to find out when I got to know them that I was stronger than any of them. Now, I like the fact that I do not have to depend on another human being to get me through a day, a week or a night."

Now, Miss Turner has found God. "He has always been in my life. He never left me, but I lost Him," she says. In the late 1970s she was very ill. "It had to do with drinking. I never got drunk or had a hangover. I didn't even appear to drink heavily. It was insidious. I was a sipper and there was always a drink there and I was taking small sips each day. I wasn't aware I was doing it. Finally, I became so ill that this beloved man, sitting right here in this room, said: 'I've made an appointment for you to see a doctor and don't say no.' My brother here," she indicates her hairdresser, "he truly saved my life."

Miss Turner went to the doctor, who asked her if she was willing to give up alcohol to get her health back and a strange thing happened: "A light came straight into my head, a light from God and I said to the doctor, 'You've got a deal.' I stuck out my hand and it was a three-way partnership. God, the doctor and me. I never went through withdrawal I never craved a drink. That came from a supreme power and to this very moment He still guides me."

As she exits, Miss Turner says: "God bless you and keep you safe. Write well and write with heart." Her right hand rests briefly, lightly on her left breast.

It is, I say, a treat to meet her and everyone I know thinks I am very lucky to have the opportunity. She chuckles: "I expect they all said: 'You must tell me what she's really like...'"

What she's really like is a genuine movie queen, the sort of solid gold superstar Hollywood doesn't manufacture any more.

"Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth" was published by New English Library yesterday, price £8.95.

The 'bête noire' who bit back for animal rights



Angela Walder, with her dog Gandhi, at the BUAV offices

Angela Walder, a clear-eyed 37-year-old, would pass unnoticed in a very small crowd. She impresses you with the matter of factness you might expect from a nurse or a teacher; yet the former Home Office Chief Inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act, Colonel Vine, calls her "an bysteric... a troublemaker, a pain in the neck", and a former president of the Research Defence Society, who candidly admits "She's my bête noire", adds that she's "a right battler".

Angela Walder's particular value to the animal rights movement is that she worked in a cancer research laboratory as an animal technician for 15 years before joining the opposition.

Every morning at half past eight above the Costa Brava nightclub in the Charing Cross Road she begins an 11-hour day as scientific advisor to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. As World Day for laboratory animals approaches the offices have been open six and seven days a week. Beside the research papers to be read, the letters and lectures, the collating of new statistics and the publishing of the *Liberator*, there has been the complicated organization of Sunday's march from Clapham to Carshalton involving seven meetings with the police.

BUAV is an angry, active movement that has outgrown the respectable image of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Young vegetarians and Positive Punks have replaced kindly middle-aged ladies in hats.

Angela Walder's first job was as an animal technician with a local drugs firm. "There was and is a careless attitude to life. A researcher will ask for large numbers of animals to be bred and then go off for a seminar or a holiday. When he comes back the animals are the wrong age for the experiment, so they are all killed."

At 19 she joined the new Institute of Animal Technicians and in 1965 went to the Gray Laboratory to look after the animals bred for cancer research. She had decided that she could do more for the animals inside the system than outside.

Angela remembers Dr Gray, the director of the establishment, with affection. "He was a decent chap. He said to me that if I saw something I didn't like I could come and discuss it with him at any time. I could say to him or to Dr Hewitt 'Must the experiment be done like that? Couldn't we design it like this instead, and cut down on the number of animals used?'"

When Dr Gray died, his place as director was taken by Professor Fowler, a medical physicist with, despite the title, no medical qualifications. His first move was to double

the number of animals. Angela was made chief animal technician, and almost immediately became concerned over the treatment of the animals and the value of the experiments.

But she was most concerned over a series of new experiments by lab staff.

"On one occasion I found that they were taking live mice and chopping off their heads with a decapitating machine. I asked why the mice weren't anaesthetized and was told that the anaesthetic might get into the bloodstream and invalidate the experiment. Anyone with an ounce of medical knowledge would have known that a volatile anaesthetic doesn't get into the bloodstream."

Her experiences at Gray Laboratory need not be taken as the norm, but after six years of detailed research into British vivisection she concludes that the 4,500,000 experiments a year rarely benefit humans. "The World Health Organization itself tells us that out of the 30,000 to 40,000 drugs on the market, only 220 are of any real benefit. We already know that smoking and alcohol are bad for us, we do not need any further testing on cosmetics... And as far as cancer research is concerned, Lord Zuckerman stated in the report carried out for the Government that giving cancer to laboratory animals has not and will not help us to understand the disease or to treat human sufferers."

Angela and two of her technicians were encouraged to leave the cancer research laboratory in 1976. Professor Fowler remains the director.

With Kim Stallford and Faye Funnell, Angela set up Coordinating Animal Welfare and under the same team BUAV took on an aggressive new lease of life. Membership in 2½ years has risen from 2,500 to 16,000. Their first achievement was to close Club Row, a notorious East London animal street market. She has worked closely with Lord Houghton of Sowerby, chairman of the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation, and on March 3 he put a Bill to close all sales of pets in street markets through its final reading in the Lords.

The battle cost Angela Walder eight arrests. She regards Club Row as "one small victory", but her solicitor Mary Rose Barrington remembers the long battle with admiration.

"When you meet Angela at first," she says, "she gives you no inkling that she is a really remarkable woman. It draws on you gradually. She does get emotional, but I notice on television and on the radio she can get very angry but retains her grasp of facts and figures. While other people are blustering she'll inject five crisp facts."

Georgina Howell

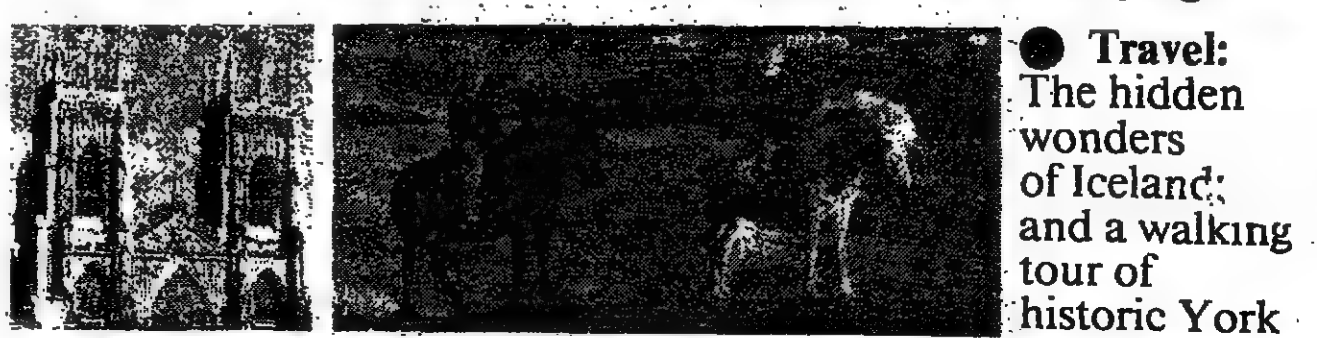
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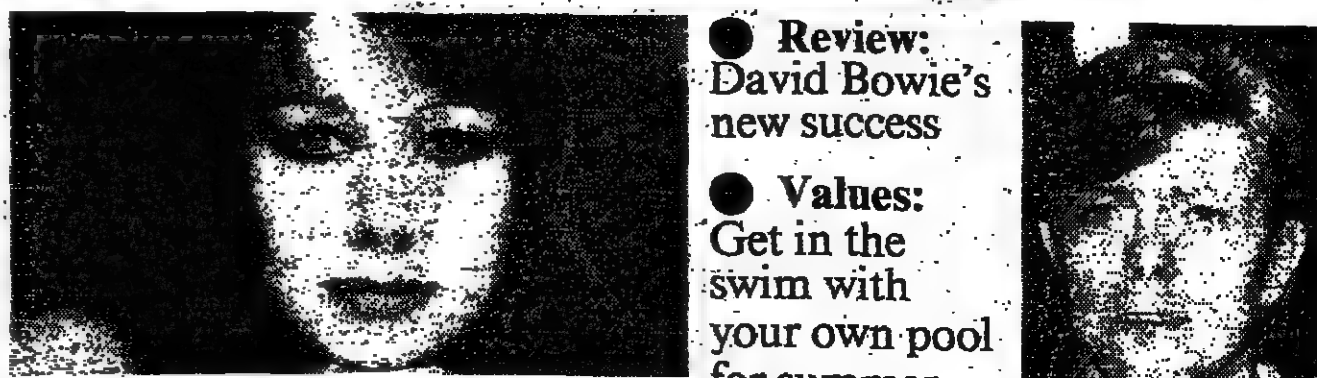
In tomorrow's edition



Survival guide for the cyclist trapped in the urban jungle



Travel: The hidden wonders of Iceland; and a walking tour of historic York



Review: David Bowie's new success

Values: Get in the swim with your own pool for summer

Theatre: Helen Mirren stars in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of The Roaring Girl

Plus

The top gardening column; aperitifs; the fine art of carpet collecting; Family Life on what you should allow your children to read; Critics' choice of the best in films, theatre, galleries, classical music, rock and jazz, dance, opera and films on television; bridge; chess and the leading guide to The Week Ahead in arts and entertainment

THE TIMES DIARY

Fortress Camden

Having basked in the media attention when publicity focused on troubles at *The Times* (my best friends call me Blabbermouth) I feel sorry for the terrorized staff at TV-am. They scuttle from their Camden Lock-up not even daring to nod at reporters whose offices they ring every night begging for stories they might follow. "I'll be thrown in the canal if I tell you anything," one poor chum whispered as he crept past. Two very large minders guard the entrance, flushing out reporters who seek shelter from the rain and watching that no one talks. On Wednesday even the company's press officer would only say: "The only statement I have to make is that I am going home." Mind you, he said it with relief.

Black mark

An indignant parent has provided me with an extract from his son's school geography exercise on South Africa, headed "Black Workers": "The blacks have to do things like mining because they aren't very clever. So they are given silly jobs like washing things and mining. They live in huts because they are so thick they don't complain about wages. While they are slogging away the English are having cups of tea and generally sitting on their backsides and doing nothing and living in big houses with lots of money." For this effort the lad, a pupil of Ravens Wood School, Bromley, was awarded eight marks out of ten.

● *Rate demands from Islington borough council, whose activities frequently amaze, are accompanied by a selection of leaflets including one introducing Britain's Most Powerful Shower. No, no, not the committee chairman, just an advertisement from a firm of sanitary engineers.*

True or false?

Chile has proposed to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, meeting in Botswana, that it should continue to protect the Alerce false larch tree, provided that trade is permitted in dead specimens. Unusual as it is, the Alerce false larch, like all other trees, has the habit of becoming a dead specimen when it is cut down.

BARRY FANTONI



"I hope that means that if we don't like her election manifesto we'll be able to take it back and change it."

Girl guides

Of 800 who applied to take the London Tourist Board's course for guides, and 21 awarded their blue badges yesterday, Lady Jane Howard, daughter of Waldegrave, was judged best of all. Part of her prize is a weekend in Cork. Lady Jane says she studied London on a boneshaker bicycle, and was often mistaken for a "would-be lady taxi driver in search of knowledge". Three quarters of approved guides are women: LTB officials say it is to do with their being motherly and good with groups. That fits: Lady Jane has six children.

● *I have received a letter from Jehangir Dadabhai Challa of Bombay, and am rather taken with his letterhead. "High Class Caterer". It says: "Marriage and Navjot Dinners, Reception in Wadi & Fields."*

Girling?

Kallaway, the sponsorship consultancy, keeps a list of perfect sponsorships, if only (like Bryant & May and *The Matchgirls*) they could be arranged. Favourites, of course, are *Oedipus Rex* backed by Mothercare and *Hamlet* brought to you by Danish Bacon. Kent Opera's *Fidelio* at Sadler's Wells has appropriately, benefiting Amnesty International collectors stationed outside. Now the company is seeking sponsors for next year's *Il Seraglio*. Any suggestions?

With Mrs PHS, as author of *Secrets of the Face*, running round the country telling people that the thicker their eyebrows the better the state of their kidneys, I am not surprised to see that the palmists are hitting back. In this week's *New Scientist* it is reported that researchers in Hyderabad have discovered that fingerprints can show susceptibility to duodenal ulcers. If you have many whorls, few loops and patterned palms, watch out. As soon as she came home I am going to get Mrs PHS to study the PHS's Signum and tell me why I have not had ulcers for ages.

PHS

Third World aid must not be cut

While the Prime Minister prepared last week to meet Tom Claassen, President of the World Bank, she received some tough advice in *The Times* from one of her newly created peers, Lord Bauer, and his economist colleague Professor Basil Yamey, about the growing dangers of giving aid to developing nations. In an exclusive interview with David Watt after his visit to Downing Street, Mr Claassen replied to the Tory critics, beginning with the waste and extravagance of Third World governments.

Claassen: Everything is imperfect and development aid misses now and then. But I would say the overwhelming weight of evidence speaks in the other direction. Take a look at the completed projects that have occurred in World Bank lending. The bank does not finance or make the support of any developing country unless we are convinced it will produce at least an economic rate of return of 10 per cent. The average of completed projects has been 17 per cent in bank lending, 17.9 in International Development Association projects. In the last four years the rate of return for agricultural projects has been 22 to 27 per cent on average. It's a good return in anybody's language. (These are not financial rates of return but economic rates of return.)

Watt: Suppose you find that that rate is going down in a particular country. What sanctions do you have?

Claassen: Clearly we watch the directions. We want to learn from mistakes as quickly as we can. The world does change and we also want to build on strength and successes. But performance depends on a great many things under control and out of control, and to control economic development in the kind of environment we've had in the last few years is very difficult. Difficult in developed countries, let alone in developing countries.

The World Bank and the development aid agencies do not deal in development themselves. We are dealing with sovereign nations and sovereign nations have their own views as to what the priorities are. We do not however finance every project that a country puts on our table saying, "We'd like to help on this." We appraise it and if we think it is suitable and will give a rate of return we'll support it. If it's a white elephant, then a moral and financial institution like the World Bank, unlike other kinds of aid agencies, is able to have a policy dialogue with the country.

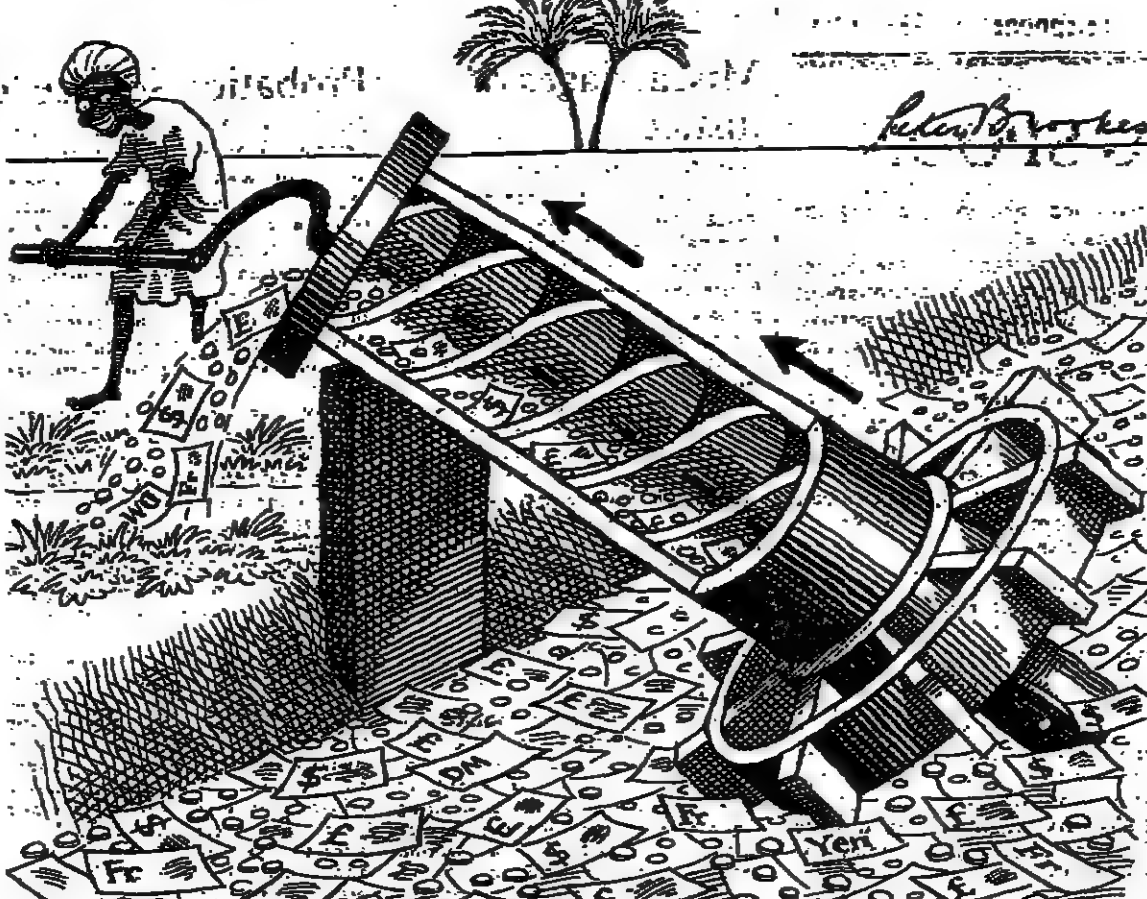
What is important is our experience. We are able to advise a developing country in a non-politicized way, in terms of economics, and what will produce economic returns and raise the standard of living of people.

Watt: If a country decides to spend a billion dollars on, say, building a new capital and you think it's a bad idea and a misallocation of resources, would you feel free to say so?

Claassen: We would feel free to say so and we do say when we do not approve. I myself sent a message to a head of government in which we said, "This is not the most desirable place or mechanism to achieve your objective and we cannot support it. However, if you use another instrument to achieve the objective and do it in these stages and these locations, we'll support you."

We have the courage to do so. The government has the final say so as to whether we want to support projects that we don't think fit the strategy of the government.

Watt: The critics say the claim



that aid is supposed to alleviate poverty is not really being fulfilled. Do you feel that?

Claassen: I would say there is a tremendous amount more that needs to be done. But we take as heart the mandate that we feel we have from developed countries and developing, to make sure that we are alleviating pain and poverty. That is why our highest economic priorities are agriculture and rural development because 80 per cent of those people at or below the poverty level live in rural areas. If we can help the poor people and the poorest of the people living in the agricultural areas to increase their standard of living, while helping them as entrepreneurs, we leave something permanently in place. We do provide something physical - an irrigation system, a transportation system, a port, institutions, education institutions, health institutions, railway systems. We are interested in handing money to governments who can then say, "One for me and two for them."

I would say that if you and I were to jump up on Mars and look down on planet Earth and look at only the last 20 years we should note that the lifespan of individuals in the developing countries has grown from the lower 40s to the mid 50s. If you look at literacy, if you look at infant mortality, health care, standards of living, there are admitted huge gaps. But our emphasis is on those in the bottom part of the global pyramid, and our role is to advance the standards of living of these people. Anybody who stands on a box and says that development assistance does not help promote that is speaking without the fundamentals of empirical evidence under him.

Watt: Let me turn to another set of criticisms. What answer do you give to people who say, "Why should we put money for these countries? We've got no responsibility for them. They're hostile to us. They're not going to be changed by our giving them money. What is our self-interest in it?"

Claassen: In your lifetime and my lifetime we have seen countries that have been hostile to other countries and have gone through the process of evolution in time to become friends. Do we have a better chance for friendship with help or turning

our back because the other country's ideology is a bit different? Do we in the West - we in San Francisco - trade with the East? We trade with the East. Is it in our vested interest to help the eastern countries to develop their economies, so they can absorb more goods and services from us? I was taught that markets would be served; and why not let us try to serve. Then we can get some friendship.

I am a cautious banker by tradition and I am still cautious; but the World Bank can play a very useful role over the decade, in helping this to be a better world for all of us - for those in the East as well as in the West.

Watt: But you've got to raise your money in the West.

Claassen: We raise our money in the developed countries. We have access to the capital markets in the developed countries, we sell our securities by virtue of the fact that we have to call on the strong countries. I think East-West, North-South are political terms.

Watt: But you're in a political business.

Claassen: No, we're not. That's why I believe it does not lend to economic understanding of global dynamics to talk in economic terms of North and South. That's why I objected a year ago in Tokyo that it is not a bi-polar world. It's a multi-polar world. Where do you put a country like Saudi Arabia - North, South, North-South, who cares? What we have to find is economic solutions.

Watt: One thing you've said that makes the critics foam at the mouth is the argument about aid as a way of increasing trade. They would say that if you're going to subsidize economic activity, you'd much better do it at home.

Claassen: I can't buy that philosophy. I think there is more to be gained by fostering trade on a national economic basis than there is by excluding and isolating countries because of political ideologies. People are people whether they are in the East or the West.

Watt: Another set of arguments I should mention concerns the problem of debt. Critics say that by lending more or by rolling over existing debt, you are encouraging Third World countries to carry on as they have before in a reckless or needless fashion.

Claassen: I would like the seven strongest nations to realize that the developed countries cannot pull themselves out of the economic mess that we find ourselves in, within their own strength. I think there's a growing awareness that the developed countries need the developing countries.

Individual countries must adjust. The UK must adjust: it is adjusting. France is adjusting and Japan. Developed countries and developing countries alike are adjusting and it is everyone's interest to cooperate, including the multilateral institutions. The most critical in this field is the IMF but let's not forget the World Bank or throw the baby out with the bath water by forgetting the long-term aspect of development in our efforts to solve the short.

Watt: In this context what do you hope for from the Williamsburg Summit?

Claassen: I would like the seven strongest nations to realize that the developed countries cannot pull themselves out of the economic mess that we find ourselves in, within their own strength. I think there's a growing awareness that the developed countries need the developing countries.

Not enough is going to these countries but given that 90 per cent of IDA goes to them, we are the largest and, may I say, the most effective, efficient, eloquent institution for intermediating funds and I think we deserve some support.

They had been arrested, but they had managed to free him. Yury demanded that guns be sent for the group's "security". This suggestion was immediately refused on principle; any shooting could result in injuries to innocent bystanders and would only make matters worse for those arrested. This was a regular KGB ploy in their efforts to show the NTS as a terrorist rather than a political movement with purely democratic aims. Yury suggested distributing NTS leaflets in 1977 on the sixtieth anniversary of the October revolution, doubtless suspecting that the NTS already had such plans and hoping to forestall them. This time Gleb arrived in Rome to discuss methods of distribution.

The affair ended when Peter turned up with a letter from Gleb claiming that Igor had been arrested for a motorist accident, according to Gleb, he must have left the scene of the accident in order to hide the leaflets he was carrying in his car. The NTS decided that nothing more was to be gained; they had already learned the KGB's plans to change the "cell" structure into a linked movement which would be easier to roll up; capture NTS emigre leaders; and the distribution of NTS political literature; prevent cooperation between NTS groups and other opposition movements in the Soviet Union, and of course, seize West European tourists serving as couriers. It would appear that the trap set for Edward Chick was part of the side KGB campaign.

Russian NTS members arrested in the Soviet Union are not expelled after a few days of tough interrogation, nor are they sent home after some years of harsh imprisonment, as was British lecturer Gerald Brooke. On March 1, Valery Senderov, a member of the independent trade union movement, was sentenced to seven years in a labour camp plus five years' exile to a remote region of the USSR after saying on arrest that he was proud to be associated with the NTS. Most members of the free-trade union and other dissident groups prefer to stay separate from the Western-based organisation, which judging from the Soviet press reports the KGB regards as the most dangerous opposition movement.

He claimed that one of his group



"Petr" (left) - Vladimir Nikolayevich Lopukhin, introduced as Konstantin Semenovich Malyshev, Valery Senderov, introduced as Andrei Nikolayevich Rodionov, Yury Senderov, introduced as Yury Senderov, and Vladimir Nikolayevich Senderov, introduced as Vladimir Nikolayevich Senderov.

Cat and mouse with the KGB

assistants, "Igor" and "Gleb". Yury was always glib, talking of his group's clandestine plans and about the general situation in the Soviet Union. He was ever prepared to answer questions about his family and friends, but talked only in vague terms about his job as a middle-ranking official in the Ministry of Education. He was extremely rude about the Soviet leaders and the Soviet system.

NTS suspicions grew when Peter brought along to one meeting a copy of a "manifesto" which he claimed the group was distributing in Moscow, but NTS sources denied that any such document was circulating. Much more useful for the NTS were the local newspapers, which Peter brought, since they contain useful addresses to which NTS literature can be sent, and are not available in the West on subscription. He even supplied several very accurate Soviet telephone directories.

Yury, with extraordinary good fortune for a humble official in the Ministry of Education, now organized a business trip to Paris, where he again insisted that someone in authority in the NTS must come to Moscow to plan strategy. He gave his home address and office telephone number, emphasizing that for reasons of security contacts must be made only from public telephone boxes.

He claimed that one of his group

Sourer Melikian

How much profit left under the hammer?

Illustration were needed of the distance that separates the art market from other fields of the economy, it has been provided by the attempted takeover by Cogan and Swid of Sotheby's in London.

The first essential difference is that the art market, unlike any other, does not deal in identical units. No two works of art are alike. The probable value of each is determined by its relative importance to others - in terms of aesthetic achievement, historical significance within the artist's oeuvre or a given category and state of preservation.

Moreover, the probable value is inseparable from a complex of past circumstances (whether it has been in the news recently or offered on the market) and conditions to be ensured at the time of the sale (the more expensive and important the work, the more sophisticated and chancy the buildup of potential demand). This is why the low and high estimates produced before a sale by auction-house professionals vary from 20 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

This is also why decision making in this business cannot be separated from expertise. The expert is not just an academic delivering remote advice. He is more like a doctor prescribing a therapy.

The second major difference is that the art market - with the exception of contemporary art, which accounts for a negligible proportion of transactions - is a closed market in which available quantities can dwindle only through museum acquisitions or destruction. Things have reached the point where the need to get a sufficient amount for sale has led to a battle between auction houses, each attempting to outdo the competition by offering better catalogues, better exposure of works to be sold through travelling exhibitions or better sale terms, ie, lower fees.

In some cases, this may even mean no fee because the prestige generated by the sale is considered essential and the fear of seeing the competitor getting the collection for sale too great.

Last, auction rooms have increasingly given way to pressure from speculation-minded vendors to accept high reserves. And, as in the 1981-1982 period, reserves tended too often to exceed the buyers' willingness to pay and works failed to sell with increasing frequency. All this led to auction houses spending more and earning less - hence, among other causes, Sotheby's discomfiture.

Bearing these factors in mind, auction house professionals dread the consequences that a change of leadership could have. First, they point out, the leadership has been changed. So there is no point in arguing that Sotheby's has been mismanaged. Julian Thompson, the Chinese art expert, who had nothing to do with the management side until the spring of 1982 - but had amply demonstrated his acumen as the builder of Sotheby's Hong Kong, its greatest success story over the years - has been running the show since then.

Some, however, and not just those based in London, concede that the New York end of the business is not yet displaying all the necessary managerial consistency. Most believe that a commission war might

be triggered in an effort to develop business by attracting more vendors. Mr Marshall Cogan has let it be known that besides putting up \$100m (about £64m) to buy Sotheby's he and his partner would still be willing to lay out as much as \$20m to allow Sotheby's "to regain its position of preeminence". Sotheby's would therefore have the financial muscle to adopt a more aggressive policy.

I believe that if the commission war starts, the effect on the art market as a whole will be disruptive. Christie's, the present and leading arch-competitor, would be under such enormous pressure that its most prudent decision-makers might be forced to give in. By lowering commissions in turn, they would soon run the risk of drastically reduced profits, if not even of being in the red.

Any such process would be spread over a period of time, say two to three years, which would be more than enough to have devastating effects on the auction market and on the trade.

If too many of the works that are currently offered to dealers, either directly for sale or on commission, should be auctioned off their circuit, some would simply have to give up the game, since in today's penny market the main problem is to get the goods at a realistic price.

The second fear is that Cogan and Swid would be tempted to lay increasing emphasis on New York.

To attempt to build up the New York auction base at the expense of London could, in the view of many art-market professionals, be counter-productive for all concerned.

When the fear of geographical shifts of power was mentioned, Cogan replied: "We intend to keep the company legally domiciled in London. The board of directors will be predominantly UK. We intend to invite representatives of the expert staff as well as existing Sotheby board members who can contribute to the future of the company."

A third fear of the staff, Cogan volunteered, was that the two businessmen would be using the firm's name for commercial purposes. "There will be no franchising of the name," he firmly says.

"Ah, now," comes the reply from the other side, "there are other ways..."

My guess is that if Cogan and Swid persist, they will succeed. If so, competition between rival auction houses will intensify, generating higher operating costs. And this, the market can no longer bear. As it is, the system is already too expensive in relation to the sum total of goods it can process, and is in great danger of becoming permanently unprofitable.

There used to be untapped categories which served as the new frontier. Everything has now been explored, from biscuit tins to vintage cars. The alternative solution - pushing prices up - has found its limits. Too much then falls to sell.

This is the heart of the problem. No matter who runs the show, an era is inexorably coming to an end. The pace and the structure will have to change, worldwide.

The author writes on the saleroom matters for the *International Herald Tribune*.

© International Herald Tribune, 1983

Philip Howard

This machinery owes me money

One of these days I am going to accept its invitation, and phone the London Automatic Machine Company on 508 8111, in case of complaint. The trouble is that I never have time to because the train anticipates my complaint. This is the company whose machines pretend to dispense chocolate bars and chewing-gum on the platforms of London's Underground railway system. They accept your money, and refuse to disgorge. You curse, dance up and down, kick the machine, formulate a blistering complaint, and then the train comes. Any fool can see that you are throwing away 20 pence by putting it in one of the machines. The compartments are check-a-block with chocolate bars, and have clearly never dispensed one of them. I dare say that there are not real chocolate bars behind the glass, but empty wrappers, as idle as a painted pig upon a painted promotion.

I shudder to think how much money the Underground highway-man at Hammersmith on the Piccadilly Line has ripped off me over the years. Probably the coins go straight down into a pit below, which has raised £3m since the grand opening in 1906 of Hammersmith as the western terminus of the Great Northern, Piccadilly & Brompton Railway.

You may say that the desire for chocolate bars is a pitiful weakness; that once bitten one ought to be twice shy; and that anybody who continues to poke tuppenny pieces through a little slot when he knows that nothing will come of it deserves all he gets in this case, not a lot, except a backlog of complaints he can never make. But backs racing around the world after stoops have found them. Hammersmith is the graveyard of journalists' lunches.

This is just one more melancholy example of the axiom that modern life is a series of traps, intended to make life easier, do the opposite. In the Dark Ages restaurants brought you milk in a jug and butter in a lordly dish (the lordliness depended on the class of restaurant).

Today you get butter on your fingers and tie, unwrapping those tiny rectangular rhomboids of butter, and the packages of everlasting milk are as impenetrable as the tin of pineapple was to the Three Men in a Boat. In Motorway cafés (I told you that backs lead a hard life) everything comes packaged and sealed so as to cause the maximum inconvenience, even the mustard.

But of all the cunts which are canted in this canting world - though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst - the cant of razor blades is the most tormenting. I do not ask much from the process of getting up in the morning. I should feel uneasy with a *levée* as elaborate as that of the Feldmarschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, with Italian tenors, hairdressers and chaps dressed as maids hiding in the cupboard. All I need is a razor blade that is easy to unwrap and fasten, and stays sharp. When I started shaving, it was evident that Gillette employed scientists to invent safety blades that were brilliantly sharp when they were unwrapped, and rusted as soon as they had been used once. In the Black Watch, where rust was a serious crime, the prudent Jock kept one unused razor and virgin blade for Adjutant's Inspection, and another necessarily rusty one hidden in his locker for shaving.

The introduction of new, double-edged, long-lasting razors should have been a liberation. As one might have guessed, the two main manufacturers change the packaging and machinery of their blades regularly, so that it is a law of life that one always has the wrong blades for the right razor. How can a chap in a crowded supermarket remember whether he shaves with Contour or Cutless, or whatever silly names they are called? Whichever he buys is wrong: it needs a razor that slips in sideways rather than one on which you press down the little knob on the top. Damn Scipio Africanus, who was, according to Pliny the Elder, the first man to be shaved every day. I bet he used oyster shells, and I bet he had trouble unwrapping them, too.

Iain Elliot



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STRATEGY OF THE LONG SPOON

Lord Carrington was right to raise the thorny subject of British-Soviet relations yesterday, when he called on the West to start a new dialogue with the USSR, especially in view of the imminent departure to Moscow of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. It will be the first bilateral visit by a British visitor since 1977. The years between have been marked by a growing rift, caused not only by Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Poland, but also by a general inability to accept as valid the ideology of the other side.

A senior Soviet political commentator, Alexander Bovin, who is now in London for the discussions of the Anglo-Soviet Round Table held in Chatham House, stated on BBC television on Wednesday that he saw no prospects for constructive dialogue with the United States while President Reagan remains in office. Bovin expressed particular annoyance at Reagan's attack on the USSR as an "empire of evil" but politely avoided repeating his usual *investiya* attacks on the evils of the capitalist West.

This Soviet attitude is clearly not helpful. If the armed blocs wait until they approve of each other's system before conducting serious negotiations, the industrialized world could remain indefinitely in its present dangerous state, or come to ashes in a nuclear holocaust.

Britain has a particularly important role to play in this East-West dialogue, being firmly of Western Europe, yet having a "special relationship" with the United States which must remain a cornerstone of our foreign policy. What should our aims be in this vital dialogue?

In the matter of defence there is a sound basis for agreement with Mr Yuri Andropov's dis-

missal of unilateralism as "naïve". If the USSR can be persuaded to remove its SS-20 missiles only by the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Britain and other European countries, then deployed they must be. Lord Carrington pointed out the need for Western Europe to play a bigger defence role. This must be complementary to Nato; it can certainly be no substitute for the Atlantic alliance.

The foreign policy of our two systems can never be reconciled. While the West's understanding of "peaceful coexistence" can be summarized as "live and let live", the Soviet leaders are committed to the definition in their Party programme that peaceful coexistence "further the world socialist revolution and helps mankind to accomplish the transition from capitalism to socialism". The theory of "socialist internationalism" by which the USSR justifies even armed interference in the internal affairs of its own satellites, once known in the West as the Brezhnev doctrine, has smoothly and almost imperceptibly become the Andropov doctrine.

Just as Britain has never accepted as legal the *de facto* incorporation of the Baltic states in the USSR - victims of the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 - we should not accept the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or interference in Poland. What can be done about it is another matter. The Kabul regime may arrest a French doctor, but supplying medical aid to the Afghans is clearly a moral duty, whatever Moscow may say.

Supplying radio transmitters is also reasonable. The wisdom of encouraging even unofficial deliveries of weapons must first, however, be carefully debated, although no moral scruples

restrained the USSR during the Vietnam war.

It is important that the Soviet leaders are left in no doubt about British determination to persist, through the United Nations Organization and other forums, with denunciations of Soviet interference in other states. They have never hesitated to distort events in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, although there can be no comparison with Soviet actions elsewhere.

During his recent Moscow trip, the French Foreign Minister, Chevasson, took a firm line on matters such as the independent nuclear deterrent, and Britain must do likewise. Our support for human rights and the prisoners of conscience should not falter, nor should our determination to expel Soviet diplomats caught spying, despite the deterioration in relations which can follow.

In trade there is certainly room for progress. But there must be absolutely no question of a return to the silly détente of the 1970s when the USSR could receive imports of strategic value at absurdly low interest rates unobtainable in the Western countries themselves.

The USSR has long been skilled at exploiting the competitive urges of Western businessmen. The ban on all goods of strategic significance must be tightened. Even if means can be found to overcome such sanctions, the cost to the Soviet military budget generally rises. Where trade can grow to the mutual advantage of the peoples of both blocks, why not encourage it to the full? Cultural exchanges on a clearly reciprocal basis might also be allowed to expand again. The West certainly impresses Soviet visitors, and some defect. But there are no defections to the USSR by Western tourists.

THE POLITICS OF GRIEF

To turn away Argentine mourners after making such handsome provision for relatives of the British dead to visit the Falkland Islands has an appearance of harshness. Their grief is presumably no less, their desire to honour the graves with their presence as natural, and their claim on human sympathy as great.

But the matter is not as simple as that. In defeat the Argentine junta showed a numb indifference towards their captured soldiers on the islands and towards the dead that lay there. They ignored repeated British offers to facilitate the removal of the bodies to their homeland for burial. It fell to the British to give them burial, and that was done with care and soldierly respect. Two hundred, and perhaps more, bodies have been gathered, less than half of them identified, and they lie each marked by a plain white cross in a cemetery behind the hill at Darwin.

Such inhumane indifference on the part of the Argentine authorities seems to require a political explanation. Perhaps since they could not hold Las Malvinas with the living, they left their dead as token of their claim. At any rate there is good reason to suspect that elements in Argentina will seek at some stage to exploit the presence of

these fallen soldiers in order to embarrass the British or rally patriotic sentiment. The nature of the present attempt to arrange a visit from Argentina does not help to dissipate one of that suspicion. The organizers, the Centre of Volunteers for the Falklands, are a patriotic ginger group and their insistence on sailing under the Argentine flag is a deliberate challenge to the attitude adopted by the British.

The British Government is willing to permit relatives of the Argentine dead on the Falklands to visit their graves: it is not willing to allow any visit to be exploited for political ends or to excessively embarrass the Falklanders. It has therefore committed the arrangements to the International Committee of the Red Cross, attaching a number of conditions all of which the ICRC has accepted.

One is that the visit should be organized and supervised by the ICRC. Others are that visitors should be close relatives of the dead, their names supplied in advance and verified by the Red Cross; that the vessel must not be under an Argentine flag or crew; that it should be inspected by the ICRC before departure; that no press or cameramen should be included; that the visitors should be accommodated on the vessel and escorted

to and from the cemetery in the course of a single day.

These are reasonable conditions on which to insist (except that it is a bad principle, and betrays nervousness, to preclude eye-witness reporting of the event). Since the ICRC is unable to conclude arrangements with the volunteers for the Falklands because they will not agree to the Red Cross requirements of neutrality, the Government is unquestionably right to forbid entry to that particular expedition.

Nevertheless the British position is vulnerable to misrepresentation, especially in Latin America. It will be necessary to make very plain the willingness of the Government to open the cemetery to the relatives of the men it holds, and the reasons for the conditions imposed. It would be advisable to go further. Allowance must be made for the islanders' understandable reluctance to have Argentines back so soon in any capacity whatever. But that should not prevent the Government from taking a more positive position. While still leaving the arrangements in the hands of the ICRC, it could offer some encouragement to the Argentine people by looking out for more suitable sponsors than the present one, whether among the agencies of the Argentine Government or more likely among church organizations.

SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF THE CAP

The combined efforts of the European Commission and Mr Peter Walker, appear to be achieving a satisfactory outcome to this year's farm-price negotiations in Luxembourg. It could not be described as a spectacular victory, but it is a decidedly welcome contrast to last year's humiliating defeat for Mr Walker, when he tried in vain to prevent a 10.5 per cent increase in intervention prices. His attempt on that occasion to use the so-called "Luxembourg compromise", which allows EEC member states a veto on the plea of overriding national interest, was to his astonishment rejected by the then united forces of the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

This time round, however, the Commission was determined upon moderation. If there was any doubt about that, it was dispelled by Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agricultural Commissioner, earlier this week when he warned the assembled ministers that spending on the common agricultural policy was facing out of control, and that this year's shortfall might be as much as £120m.

Thus, knowing that they had an ally in Mr Walker, the commissioners let it be known that any change in their proposed 4.2 per cent average price

increase would have to have the unanimous consent of all ten ministers. That was clearly not going to be, and it now seems that those countries which had been pressing for 7 per cent and more have had to resign themselves to increases as low as 2.3 per cent for milk and 3 per cent for cereals. Other products which are not in significant surplus will receive slightly more generous treatment.

One result will certainly be to damp down rises in food prices in the shops, although the relationship is not as simple as might be thought. The likelihood that farmers' incomes this year will grow less than their costs may have some effect in curbing production and therefore surpluses, but it will be at best marginal. Moreover, the debate is not yet at an end, since there is now bound to be considerable acrimony over the complex issue of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

MCAs are intended to balance fluctuations between currency values and the more stable Green rates, in which farm prices are calculated. For countries with weak currencies they act as a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports, with the object both of eliminating what is seen as unfair competition and preventing the activities of

speculators who would otherwise be able to buy cheaply in one country and sell profitably into intervention storage in another.

They are inevitably unpopular with farmers in, say, France, who feel they are being deprived of export opportunities offered by the present weakness of the franc. Conversely, their abolition would be strongly opposed by the German lobby which fears a flood of cheap imports.

It is possible to sympathize with both views. British pig farmers have yet to recover from the effects of "negative" MCAs in the 1970s, when sterling was at its weakest, which allowed Danish bacon to gain nearly half the British market. But equally the Germans have a case in arguing that, with products whose prices are centrally fixed in Brussels, they cannot compensate for the strength of the Deutschmark by greater efficiency, as they can in other industries.

The main objection to MCAs, however, is that they directly contradict one of the Community's basic aims, namely a free trade in agricultural products. They are yet another complication in the appallingly cumbersome CAP which, despite this week's welcome news, is as urgently in need of reform as ever.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Those of us concerned with miscarriages of justice in the criminal law will be glad to see the Government's proposals that in future the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more cases back to the Court of Appeal and that the Court of Appeal will be readier to receive them.

What gives less cause for satisfaction, however, is the proposal, summarized in your leading article (April 14) of the Home Secretary, calling in experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations in particularly complex cases.

The recent history of two-man investigations by experienced lawyers is not a happy one because of their deep-seated though understandable reluctance to admit that, from time to time, things can go dreadfully wrong.

For instance, the first inquiry into the Evans/Christie case, conducted by the experienced John Scott-Henderson, QC, used a wealth of false premises and misleading arguments to conclude that justice had not miscarried. The second inquiry, by Mr Justice Brabin, found that Evans had not murdered his child (for which he was hanged) but merely strangled (together) that he had murdered his wife.

The report by Sir Henry Fisher on the Condit case left much to be desired, while just recently we have had Lord Hunter's report on the Meehan case in which, rather than accept the probability of police planting of evidence and despite Meehan's free pardon, he incriminated Meehan as an accessory to the crime in a scenario which owed more to inventiveness than credibility.

By all means let us have experienced lawyers to act as chairmen of these investigations, to lend tone to the proceedings and see they are conducted in a dignified and orderly manner. But if proceedings on an alleged miscarriage of justice are the aim, let them be joined by two lay assessors: that way we are more likely to establish the truth.

As advocates and referees our Bar and Bench are second to none; but they are not the best people for determining whether the system which they and their brethren operate has erred.

There is nothing very radical in this proposal. After all, when judges sum up, they habitually tell juries that while they (the judges) are the authority on the law, it is the juries, or lay assessors, who must reach a verdict on the facts.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace,
Edinburgh 4,
April 19.

Public records

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, The financial thinking behind Mr Camp's (April 15) "entire answer" to Lord Teviot's escapes me. He seems to be merely pushing the problem from the Public Record Office pillar to the local government post. Save the taxpayer at the taxpayer's expense.

There is a local record office already holding registers, but very many would find themselves quite unable to cope with the burdens of space and time which would be created by the transfer of local superintendents' registers.

It may be an "entire answer" for the genealogist, but it does nothing to resolve the real problem behind the Bill: that a projected 100,000 registers will be released on the PRO (or on local record offices, if Mr Camp has his way) without any financial provision for coping with them.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR GRAY,
The Association of County Archivists,
Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
April 19.

Middle East tensions

From Mr Alan Mackie

Sir, Surely the Palestinians have every reason to blame the Americans for their present predicament and it is cavilling of you to suggest, in your leader of April 12, that they should not.

Of course there are thuggish elements in the Palestinian resistance movement, but their posturing does not alter the issues and indeed is irrelevant to them. With extremism there will be victims, be they called Argov, Saraw, Hamami, the Maelot children or the 8,200 civilians killed in Lebanon - Messrs Begin and Sharon are, after all, the Israeli equivalent of Abu Nidal.

First and foremost, it is American pusillanimity, exacerbated by moderate Arab states' complacency in allowing her to get away with it, that is the root cause of the current Middle East crisis. Lacking the guts to confront the Jewish lobby, successive American Administrations have fished for an Arab leader to "go it alone".

King Hussein nearly took the bait in 1967 after the June war but was not given sufficiently concrete assurances. President Sadat, the first Arab leader to break ranks was, in his own words, "left naked" after Camp David when Mr Begin denied any undertaking to freeze settlements, and President Carter was impotent to enforce what was a clear and crucial understanding. Little wonder that the King has balked at joining the current peace talks without the PLO on vague American promises to pressure Israel. American promises have no credibility.

Probation service 'cheeseparing' denied

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Lord Wells-Pestell and others (April 19), in expressing their concern at the Home Secretary's decision to reduce the salary scale for probation students, commencing with those who would start courses in 1983, refer to the extent of discussion and debate on the matter. I would like to make four particular points.

First, the changes in the salary scale will not apply to existing students, nor do they in any way touch on the pay of probation officers themselves. The new scales will apply to students who are beginning their training on courses beginning this coming September, so the letter is misleading to suggest that "every trainee will be worse off".

My second point is that the present system of salaries, supported by the Home Office for students, who aim to obtain a qualification (the certificate of qualification in social work) so that they could seek appointment in the probation service, was introduced in 1970 at a time when there was difficulty in attracting a sufficient number of applicants. It had the effect of placing the students in a favourable position in comparison with students preparing for similar careers (the annual unit cost of probation students is £7,000, compared with £4,000 for DHSS grants to social work students). The present extent of this favoured treatment is no longer justified with the very encouraging number of suitable applicants who now come forward.

Thirdly, in reviewing the salary scale, the opportunity was taken to give greater relative recognition to the special contribution which mature entrants can make to the work of the probation service and to which Lord Wells-Pestell's letter itself attaches importance. For those aged 34 or over the new scale represents an increase during the first year, and over the full period of

the two-year course the reduction is less than half of one per cent.

My final particular point is that it seems to me that Lord Wells-Pestell's letter betrays a lack of understanding in describing as "cheeseparing" a measure which is expected to save £300,000 in a full year. It may help to put this sum of money into better perspective to note that the cost of introducing one of the most important of these new measures - community service for 16-year-olds - is estimated to be £250,000; hardly "cheeseparing".

The probation service has done well under this Government: between June 1979 and June 1982, the number of probation officers increased by 8 per cent to 3,600 and the number of probation ancillaries (such as community service supervisors) increased by 30 per cent to 1,026. During the financial year 1982-83 there was provision for an increase of 3 per cent in staff and staff support services, and provision for growth continues until March, 1985.

This growth will help the service respond to the increased demand, including growth in numbers of supervisory sentences in accordance with the Government's policy of encouraging the use of non-custodial measures. But at a time when the Government is seeking to restrain public expenditure as a whole no service can be exempt from the search for economies.

The Home Secretary shares the regret that the National Association of Probation Officers should have decided to hold a one-day strike on April 27 in protest at this decision. The more so in view of the importance he attaches to the contribution the service makes to dealing with offenders in the community.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
April 21.

Nuclear balance

From the Editor of NATO Review

Sir, Professor Sir Martin Ryle (March 30) says that, at the end of June, 1979, the NATO Review affirmed the "non-dramatic" character of the SS20, and he later asserts that the same edition of the magazine notes that the deployment of cruise missiles in Europe "would make (arms) control impossible".

On re-reading the edition to which Sir Martin is presumably referring (no 3, June, 1979), I can find no trace of either statement. In fact, the text of a Nuclear Planning Group communiqué (of April 25, 1979) published in the documentation section stated that ministers, discussing with continuing concern, Soviet modernization of their nuclear force systems which is being undertaken on a scale well in excess of defensive requirements and supported by any NATO developments, in particular,

ministers took note of the extensive improvements the Soviets are making in their long-range theatre forces threatening Nato Europe, especially the SS20 missile, which affords improvements over previous systems in providing greater accuracy and more mobility and in having multiple warheads on each missile.

The opening article in this same issue of NATO Review by Alexander Haig (then, Secour) made a similar point and, turning to the effect that any modernization programme by Nato might have on arms control efforts, Haig insisted that such a programme was "a prerequisite for sound arms control measures", something that subsequent developments would seem to confirm.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. JENNER,
Editor, NATO Review,
Information Directorate,
North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
1110-Brussels, Belgium.

Christians and Jews

From Miss Anna Kasket

Sir, How can we be "grateful" for any deed which is evil, whatever the immediate consequences? While seeking to conciliate both sides in the current "scapegoat" antisemitism arena, may I suggest that Archdeacon Derek Hayward (April 16) is, on the other hand, treading dangerous ground in providing Jews with a less than attractive get-out clause and Christians with better means of absolving themselves of "sending Jesus to the Cross" after all.

We can only agree that it would have been better if there were no sin and no crucifixion, rather than there are bad acts and that humanity is granted the occasion for these to be redeemed. Christians, in turn, must not assign Jews the role of instruments or slaves, in the interest of their own salvation.

Sin exists before the crucifixion: the crucifixion itself, as Archdeacon Hayward writes at the beginning of his letter, is the specific and uniquely horrific example able to enforce our sense of sin.

It is, sadly, obvious that the discussion about the crucifixion and antisemitism is in essence a discussion about blame: either the

Jews are to be blamed as the best collection of the worst kind of men or as the correspondent in the latest edition of the TLS tries to suggest, we are not meant to be relieved vicariously (I would add, on the human plane) and "neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers" (Deuteronomy 24:16).

Yours sincerely,
ANNA KASKET,
Lincoln College, Oxford.

Fall in casualties

From Mr Frank West-Oram

Sir, Early indications (report, April 14) of a significant fall in motorist road casualties, following the compulsory seat belt measure, are indeed welcome.

However, for purposes of comparison, I think you should in future issue alongside the motorist figures details of casualty changes to pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorcyclists, who get no benefit from seat belts and who make up more than half the total road deaths - 3,315 out of 5,846 in 1981.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WEST-ORAM,
Vice-Chairman,
The Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety,
1-5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

CND's presence at peace meetings

From the General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, The issue of CND's limited observer status at the forthcoming World Peace Council Assembly in Prague in June is not quite as simple as you would like to make it (leading article, April 21).

One large piece doesn't fit into the jigsaw which you outline. In May of this year CND will be present as full participants at the END (European Nuclear Disarmament) Convention in West Berlin. Yet that convention has been bitterly attacked by the Soviet Peace Committee, which very much resents END, which CND helped to found and continues to support.

That there are risks of manipulation in going to Prague is clear, but then we have also learned over the last few years that manipulation is not a technique known only to the East.

By a majority CND council decided that, at this time of a new cold war, it was better to try to communicate than to isolate. Is the nuclear arms race really exclusively the responsibility of the Soviets? Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT, General Secretary,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
14 Goodwin Street, N4,
April 21.

Cypriot heritage

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, In your special supplement on Cyprus (April 6) Amy MacDonald writes that "The island was first inhabited in 1200 BC by Phoenicians and Assyrians, followed by Egyptians and Persians." The date is wrong and the facts are wrong.

The first settlements in the island are dated about 7000 BC. It was never inhabited by either Egyptians, Egyptians or Persians; the rulers of those countries took tribute from the Cypriot kingdoms for 50, 24 and 200 years respectively in the eighth, sixth and fifth to fourth centuries BC. There was a Phoenician kingdom at Kition (near Larnaca) from about 850 BC but this was their only settlement and there were nine Greek kingdoms. By the third century BC Kition had been entirely assimilated into the Hellenistic Greek cultural and political world.

Your correspondent's evident intention, or that of her informants, is to suppress all mention of the fact that throughout recorded history the population, language and culture of the island have been in overwhelming proportion Greek: a word she never mentions. Her choice of date is odd: it has no relevance whatever to the extraneous peoples she mentions but it is the approximate date of the arrival of the Greeks.

Since then, under successive rulers, the Greek character of the island has been preserved to the present day. The first major change in the racial composition of the island came after 1571 AD when the Turkish conquerors brought in Anatolian settlers whose descendants now amount to a minority of under twenty per cent. Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Pine,
East Wye,
Lindfield,
Sussex,
April 13.

Water Bill changes

From Mr Roland C. Rench

Sir, Before the Water Bill was published I expressed, through your columns, (letters, July 19, 1982) serious doubts, concerning Government proposals for restructuring the membership, etc, of water authorities. Those misgivings have now been reinforced by the insistence of the Government, in the House of Lords, not to concede any amendment whatsoever to clause 7.

In particular, I am astonished that, despite overwhelming pressure from all quarters, an amendment that would have made it mandatory for the chairperson of a Consumers' Consultative Council to be elected by its members (and not left to the discretion of the associated water authority) was not accepted.

There is still time for the Government to relent - and demonstrate that it believes in democratic methods as well as Victorian values. Yours faithfully,
ROLAND C. RENCH,
8 Minshull Place,
Park Road,
Beckenham,
Kent,
April 17.

Endangered species?

From Lord Cudlipp

Sir, The Daily Express published yesterday (April 19) a coloured section entitled "Our Vanishing Countryside", naming some of the species on the protected list covered by the new Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The danger list included the kingfisher, the otter, the swallowtail, the whooper swan, the osprey, the hoopoe, the golden eagle and the snowy owl, with whose characteristics we are all familiar, but omitted the editors of the Daily Express, the most endangered species of all.

There have been six editors of the Daily Express within six years.

One hopes that Sir Larry Lamb, the new incumbent, will demonstrate another phenomenon of nature, the survival of the fittest. Yours faithfully,
HUGH CUDLIPP,
The Dene,
Aldingbourne,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
April 19.

CHINA

Problems facing the post-Mao leadership may seem to be insuperable barriers to progress but it would be wrong to overlook the Chinese ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources. David Bonavia reports.

China's history since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 has been mainly a search for political stability and for improvements in the living standards of the common people.

At the 12th congress of the Communist Party last year, large numbers of aged revolutionary leaders in Peking were shunted sideways onto special advisory bodies, and younger people were brought on to play more active roles in administration and policy-making.

In the provinces, however, progress towards the reduction of gerontocracy has been slower. The Communist Party, with some 40 million members, is still having difficulty dealing with the estimated 16 million of them who joined during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) and who are no longer considered politically reliable, or who are dishonest or inefficient.

The outstanding elder statesman of the post-Mao era is Mr Deng Xiaoping, who still controls China's destinies despite relinquishing formal tenure of his posts as Deputy Chairman of the party and Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Deng's right-hand man is Mr Zhao Ziyang, the capable and energetic Prime Minister who has contributed much to the progress of economic reform - basically a reversion to cash incentives for workers on farms, in factories and in offices and shops.

This process has entailed a return to family farming in the rural areas, and a large degree of freedom for the peasants to decide what they will grow and to whom they will sell what they do not eat themselves.

After fulfilling the production contracts with local organs, the peasants can sell their produce on the free market both in the countryside and in adjacent rural areas.

Peasants are raising incomes and foreign exchange earnings from cash crops, the leadership has recommended that industrial enterprises work out suitable versions of the "responsibility systems", as the reforms are called. Laundries and even Peking opera troupes have implemented a system of income-sharing based on earnings.

It remains to be seen whether such methods of economic growth, which some people in China denounce as "capitalist", will succeed across the board, or whether the delays and red tape of bureaucratic socialism will defeat them.

Besides the move towards a weeding-out of the party ranks, which has met strong opposition from entrenched interests in the provinces and the armed forces, the Party is supposed to be in process of separating its ideological work, and moral exhortations to the nation at large, from its previous role as the discipline of administration and control at all levels.

Officials who previously held high rank both in the party and in the organs of government are being encouraged to opt for one or other of them, in matters of day-to-day administration, the party is supposed to let the recently formed People's Congresses work through the organs of government, intervening only when absolutely necessary.

Progress towards this ideal will necessarily be slow, given the reluctance of officials to lose any of their power and to retire in a timely manner, so that younger cadres can take more responsibility.

An associated problem is that of the intellectuals - defined as those with degrees, or specialized knowledge - many of whom have not been satisfactorily rehabilitated since the Cultural Revolution and whose abilities are being wasted on low-powered jobs, often in remote areas to which they were exiled under Mao.

The level of tertiary education is still low, and there is a severe shortage of places for school-leavers who want to pursue it. Unless this problem is solved, China will continue to be technologically backward except in a few prestige areas such as nuclear missiles, in which it is anyway greatly outanked by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Equally serious is the problem of unemployment, particularly among young people. Though the authorities gloss this over as "waiting for employment" (only capitalist countries supposedly have "unemployment"), it is creating a generation of sceptical, if not cynical, young people whose ideals and energy are being wasted.

Political ideology has been out of fashion since Mao's death, and the mass of the people are more interested in finding better housing, clothes and consumer goods. Food supplies are adequate if modest, and prone to price rises because of the existence of a free market.

Mac's ideal of continuing "class struggle" under socialism has been rejected by the Deng leadership, which, ironically enough, means a practical reversion to class privilege, both covert and overt.

An official who pulls strings to get his or her offspring into a university will be let off with a reprimand or demotion if the matter is uncovered. A worker or peasant will have no strings to pull.

In practice it is hard to achieve any improvement in one's lifestyle without "going through the back door", as the Chinese put it. Personal relations and family alliances are often essential for people to further their careers.

The concern expressed by the leadership at Western cultural influences, coming in the wake of more trade and other contacts with the outside world, seem rather exaggerated, and based on an excessively prudish view of morality.

Chinese young people long to travel abroad, but few will ever have the opportunity or the means. Officials on overseas trips are often berated for spending their time sightseeing and sending home colour television sets.

There is small hope of improvements in standards of living if the present population growth of over 1.1 per cent continues. The city dwellers have on the whole accepted the policy of the one-child family, but the peasants, who make up for some 80 per cent of the population, are still keen to have more children, especially boys.

Girl babies are still widely despised, and recently there have been press condemnations of the practice of female infanticide in the rural areas.

All these problems would seem to place insuperable barriers to progress. But the Chinese have shown their ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources too often in the past to be counted out of the global struggle for prosperity and security.

emphasis on improving research and medical skills, the raising of hygiene standards, pioneered under Mao, has left its mark. The population problem is to some extent the product of falling infant mortality and longer life expectancy.

Nor is China riven by the communal or religious conflicts which devour the energies of so many countries. Clan feuds persist in the most backward areas, and there is unrest among some of the ethnic minorities - especially the Muslims of Xinjiang - but the gradual progress towards universal literacy is an important heritage of the country's unitary culture and written language.

The Government's credit is good with Western firms, and the leadership has succeeded in almost wiping out the budgetary and foreign trade deficits which resulted from overspending in the late 1970s.

Although China is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, its prestige among other Third World countries is high. As the leaders point out, not a single Chinese soldier is stationed on the territory of any other country. The South-East Asian nations, while still wary of their big communist neighbour, regard it as a useful counterweight to the more aggressive and expansionist Vietnam.

Above all, China has gained respect - among those who sympathise with its goals - for its willingness to experiment, and to discard unsuccessful formulae. In its development as a socialist state, China has tested the boundaries of Marxist

theory, and drawn back when its limitations were plain. The country is now at the opposite extreme, testing rightist socialism similar to that of Yugoslavia. If China remains a socialist country into the 21st century there is no doubt that its adaptation of Marxism will also reflect its long and unique cultural development.

ECONOMY Reform is the priority for 1983

Reform has become the keynote of the Chinese economy in 1983.

Record harvests and a surplus on foreign trade last year were a striking endorsement of recent agricultural reforms which gave farmers material incentives to produce more. This has strengthened the hand of the present leadership group, whose economic policies were expressed in the new Constitution and the long-delayed five-year plan (1981-1985) adopted by the National People's Congress last December.

With solid economic and political victories in their pocket, the Dengist group is preparing to launch a rectification movement in the second

half of this year to eliminate vestiges of "leftism" - that is, resistance to the new policies - remaining in the party. This should help to extend economic reforms to industry and commerce, where they have come up against recalcitrant middle-level officials.

The private sector is expanding, especially in urban areas. There are 2.6 million individual enterprises in China employing 3,000,000 people with a gross annual turnover of more than 10,000m yuan (about £3,300m), officials say. State-owned and cooperative enterprises are converting to profit-based accounting.

None of these measures can succeed without thorough changes in the pricing and employment systems, but these are finally beginning to crack.

China is adopting a three-tier mixed economy with fixed prices for certain primary commodities and consumer staples, floating prices for a wide range of manufactured goods, including many consumer products, and free prices for farm and rural sideline industry products sold in markets.

This tripartite division parallels the division of the economy into three sectors: compulsory planned, guidance (or non-mandatory) planned, and free market, as described in the report by Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party General Secretary, to the 12th party congress last September.

Equally important changes could finally remove the "iron-ricebowl" system of guaranteed income and employment for urban workers, which has stymied attempts to improve productivity. In March the Ministry of Labour and Personnel called for the extension to all areas of the contract employment system, previously applied experimentally in selected enterprises in a few areas. Under this system, the worker and employing organization enter into a contractual relationship, clearly spelling out the duties and rights of both parties.

The scheme allows for flexibility adjusted for productivity in a variety of ways. There is the implicit concept that a worker who fails to satisfy his contractual obligations can be dismissed - a revolutionary concept in a society which until recently accepted, in theory at least, that workers were entitled to their job and pay.

The five-year plan for 1981-1985 outlined by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, in December, calls for modest short-term economic growth, combined with intensive development of the energy industries and transport and a gradual technological overhaul of China's existing industrial enterprises. The aim is to provide a

foundation for more rapid economic growth in the second half of the decade. Mr Zhao endorsed the open-door policy of expanding foreign trade and encouraging foreign investment in China. Foreign trade is expected to grow by an average of 8.7 per cent a year over the five-year period. Last year it recorded a surplus of 2,800m yuan, but export growth was flat as China finally succumbed to stagnation in world trade and protectionism in the US and other key markets.

The plan anticipates a 3,000m yuan deficit for 1983, with imports growing 25 per cent. Much of the increase will come from technology and equipment needed for China's ambitious modernization programme.

Occidental Petroleum, of the US, announced in March that it had signed an interim agreement with the China National Coal Development Corporation to develop a 15 million tonne-per-year coalmine at Pingshuo in Shanxi province, the location of China's biggest coal reserves. The joint venture will require an investment by Occidental of between \$200m and \$300m (about £153m-£200m), which would make Pingshuo by far the biggest foreign investment in China.

About 70 per cent of the output is earmarked for export to Japan, the Philippines and Hongkong. The coal will be moved from Shanxi along newly-upgraded railways to a coal port at Qinhuangdao.

In another important energy project, a nuclear power plant will be built in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone near Hongkong. This will involve contracts for the nuclear power industries of both France and Britain, well-informed sources say, on the basis of future sales of electric power to Hongkong.

Heavy industry grew by a surprising 9.3 per cent last year, far exceeding the 4 per cent range set by planners in late 1981, and this will undoubtedly put further strain on China's already stretched energy supply and transport system.

Light industry grew by only 5.1 per cent, reversing the two-year trend of two figures light industrial growth under the readjustment policies, which had favoured light industry. The policies cut investment costs and heavy industrial growth in order to hold down energy demand and expand the supply of consumer goods.

One factor in the levelling-off of light industrial growth has been the gradual saturation of markets for synthetic textiles and some manufactured goods, especially less-favoured brand names. Gone are the days when it was necessary to queue up to

continued on next page

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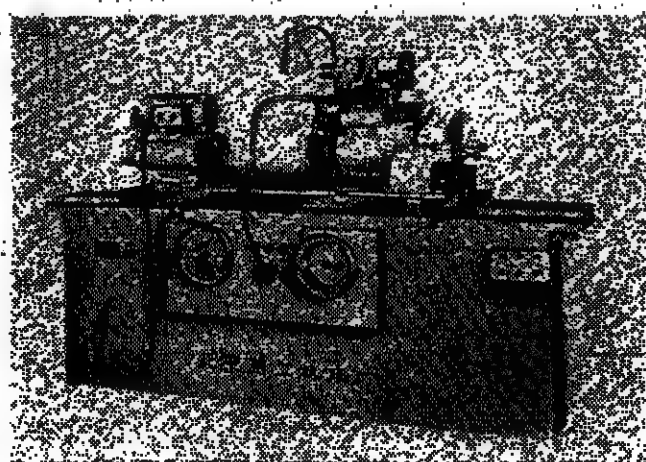
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continued from previous page
buy a watch, bicycle or sewing machine. Town dwellers now want colour, not black-and-white, television sets, and Japanese if possible.

The shift to profit-based accounting has made it easier to identify inefficient producers of shoddy goods, which are now piling up in warehouses. Efficiency-minded bureaucrats are forcing such enterprises to shift to new product lines or close down.

Robert Dells
China Economy Correspondent
Far Eastern Economic Review

AGRICULTURE

Growing more and reaping rewards

Recent structural changes in Chinese agriculture and the end of the drought after nearly three years in north China have contributed to record harvests, which the Chinese hope will be exceeded again this year.

Total agricultural output rose by nearly 7 per cent in 1982, which is the minimum necessary to achieve the leadership's goal of quadrupling national production by the year 2000.

In most places, work points have been replaced by the system of production contracts which, Chinese economists claim, mobilize the peasants' self-interest by rewarding them not only according to their labour input, but according to the effectiveness and productivity of their work.

At the same time, it is strenuously denied that the new system amounts to redistribution of land, with the peasants becoming owners of the fields they farm. Land, in theory, is still owned by the collective, while the peasants own some tools and technical equipment, and have the right to practice it makes little difference, except that exploitation of poor by rich peasants is ruled out, thus avoiding one of the greatest causes of misery in pre-revolutionary China. The factors working for greater output are purchases of chemical fertiliser, hard work, a modest degree of mechanization, bank loans, and progress in scientific farming.

Agriculture will generally continue to be small scale until the enhanced earnings of the country as a whole can finance the merging of the land tracts now farmed by families, groups of families and sometimes individuals, thus making mechanization economic and avoiding rural unemployment.

The latest trend is towards families specializing in certain types of work considered inferior to grain production during Mao's lifetime - forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, fruit, vegetables, and cash crops. The party and government are actively encouraging peasant families to devote themselves to any one or a combination of such occupations.

The wheel of rural policy has come round so far that now there are even families considered to be "specializing in grain production". Previously, families were expected to spend most of their time and energy making their villages self-sufficient in grain, and ideally selling surpluses to the state. Now the peasants can eat or market their crops freely after delivering their contracted grain

Though the area sown to grain was slightly reduced, the estimated harvest figure is 344 million tonnes, an increase of nearly 6 per cent over 1981.

Cotton totalled 3.37 million tonnes or nearly 14 per cent more than the previous year. Oil-bearing crops were put at 11.2 million tonnes, an increase of almost 10 per cent.

Though better weather helped farmers, Peking claims the record harvests were due at least partly to the new system of family farming which has motivated the peasants to produce and market more. Leading authorities compare the system with the agricultural cooperatives of the 1950s, which were swept aside by the late Mao Tse-tung's imposition of the people's communes.

The communes, which centralized all rural work from 1958, on and were aimed at achieving uniformity of living standards, were severely modified after they failed to keep the country fed in 1961. However, some concepts of egalitarianism persisted in the three-tiered administrative system applied to farming from 1962 until 1980, and were expressed in the system of work points.

Work points were designed to reward hard work and pay stronger and more active peasants more than their fellows. In practice, however, they discouraged personal initiative and denied the peasants the right to enrich themselves through their own efforts.

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quotas or other produce to the authorities.

The communes themselves have ceased to be centres of political mobilization and control, and are now purely administrative units providing some essential services. The rural township or *xiang* has reverted to its former role as the basic organ of government.

Nothing could better symbolize the turn-about in farm policy than the appointment of a middle-aged intellectual to act as party secretary of the once-famous Dazhai production brigade in Shanxi Province, the model of Maoist austerity and egalitarianism. Mao and his group despised intellectuals, and compared them unfavourably with untutored peasants as builders of socialism. Now it is the peasants who have shown the strongest anti-socialist tendencies, and won their point.

Chinese theorists, of course, would reject this analysis, and say the peasants were as eager as anyone to implement socialism when the time is ripe. But the socialist idea of "paying each according to his work" has failed to make Chinese farming efficient, and the slogan nowadays is "paying each according to his output".

The idea of peasant self-enrichment is no longer thought anti-socialist, but is greatly encouraged, so that there are now peasant families earning considerably more than industrial workers and people in administrative jobs, and a few have even bought their own tractors, which they can use on their own land or hire out for gain.

Chinese farming - for which only 15 per cent of the country's land is suitable - now concentrates on value rather than mass production. Forest and aquatic products, handicrafts, meat and eggs are no longer regarded as luxuries whose cultivation should be assigned a low priority. But the proclaimed goal of improving the protein content of the people's diet will wait on the development of transport and refrigeration to ship beef and lamb from the frontier grasslands to the heavily populated interior. Pork, chicken, beans and fish still supply most of the protein in the Chinese diet.

Export industries, however, are benefiting from the better supply of secondary products, while several million tons of grain are imported each year to satisfy the basic requirement of the foodstuffs in the big coastal cities.

David Bonavia

OIL Getting into the offshore field

The coming year will be critical for China's ambitious plans to develop its offshore oil reserves, which many experts believe could rival those of the North Sea or Alaska and make China a significant force in the world oil market by the 1990s.

In the five years since the Chinese Government first announced it was inviting foreign oil companies to help to explore and develop its virtually uncharted continental shelf, progress has been painstakingly thorough - and slow. Although wells have been drilled around Hainan Island in the south and in the Gulf of Bohai in the north, the start of the major

exploration programme in the South China and Yellow Seas, which alone will tell whether or not China could become an important oil exporting nation, has been postponed again. It is unlikely to begin before the end of this year.

Since August last year the Chinese Government has been evaluating the bids for 43 offshore tracts in the South China Sea and Yellow Sea submitted by the oil companies. Although initial expectations were that the first licences would be awarded by the end of last year, they are now unlikely to be granted much before the middle of the year. There is evidence that the recent fall in world oil prices is causing most of the oil companies involved to hold out for better terms in the all-important contractual arrangements for profit and production sharing between the industry and the newly created Chinese National Oil Corporation.

The outcome of the negotiations - and the drilling that follows them - will be critical for both sides. For the Chinese, development of their offshore oil is far more than just another manifestation of Deng Xiaoping's "open door" economic policy. It holds out the prospect of secure energy supplies for many years, as well as a vital source of badly needed foreign currency earnings.

Oil companies regard offshore China as one of the last great unexplored oil provinces. The seismic surveys they carried out for the Chinese Government as a condition of being able to bid in last summer's auction identified more than 100 large and potentially oil-bearing structures, many of which could produce substantial quantities of oil, if they are confirmed by drilling. The 33 companies which bid for licences include all the leading international companies such as BP, Shell and Exxon.

China has been a significant producer of oil for more than 30 years, having been helped by the Russians to develop the first of her many onshore fields. Present production from the onshore fields is running at about 2 million barrels a day, slightly less than Britain's North Sea output, but sufficient in recent years to meet China's domestic needs and leave a small surplus for export.

Although no official Chinese forecasts are available, there has been speculation among Western analysts that China's onshore fields have recently peaked, underlining the need for new developments. A recent confidential World Bank report forecast that China could become a net importer of oil by 1990, particularly if domestic consumption continued to grow.

What is not in dispute is that China does not have the experience, equipment or financial resources to tackle the far more demanding task of offshore development on its own. This is reflected both in its decision to open the door to Western oil companies, and in its stipulation that the companies should help to lay the groundwork for a strengthened indigenous industry by employing and training Chinese labour for their offshore operations.

As for the financial commitment, Chang Yangling, vice chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of China, said a few months ago that China would need between \$20,000m and \$40,000m (\$13,000m to \$26,000m) to develop its oil and coal resources. Most Western estimates are that sums of this order will be needed over the

next 20 years for oil development alone if the offshore area proves anything like as rewarding as has been predicted.

Estimates of the likely reserves in China's offshore waters are inevitably speculative, but Dr Jack Birks, a former managing director of BP, puts the likely figure at between 20 billion and 40 billion barrels. This is in line with many other estimates, and would make offshore China slightly more productive than the North Sea.

The drilling already done by three oil company consortia, one Japanese, one French and one American, has been patchy, with several oil shows, and a number of "dry holes". These have all been in relatively shallow water, but are not regarded as the best areas on offer.

The waters off the mouth of the Pearl River will attract the greatest industrial interest, and this area was well represented in last summer's auctioned acreage. The total area on offer amounted to some 60,000 square miles, equivalent to the entire United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

The Chinese have taken advice from other oil producing countries, including Norway, about the form and terms of licence agreements. The model agreement produced last year was complex and onerous but not that exacting by international standards, with profits in the early stages being divided 75 per cent to the Chinese Government and 25 per cent to the oil companies.

Two key conditions for China are that all the initial exploration and development costs are paid for by the companies, while the Chinese state oil company taking over once the costs have been repaid out of the oil produced. This is in addition to the stipulations that the companies use Chinese labour and equipment wherever possible.

Jonathan Davis
Energy Correspondent

POPULATION

Time to end the baby boom

China's latest Constitution, promulgated on December 4, 1982, proclaims unequivocally that the state "promotes family planning so that population growth may fit the plans for economic and social development". It also notes that "both husband and wife have the duty to promote family planning".

China is one of the few countries to have highlighted and promoted birth control so explicitly in a national Constitution. This comes as no surprise in view of the results, just being released, of China's most recent census, which was conducted in June, 1982.

The figures showed a nation of over 1,008 million people on the mainland of China which could conceivably grow to 1,400 million by the end of the century if peasant families continue to prefer to have three children.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 more than 450 million people have been added to China's population and 40 per cent of this net gain occurred during the baby boom from 1962 to 1972. The results of this boom should be carefully considered in conjunction with the working of the

new marriage law of 1980, which stipulates the minimum legal age of marriage as 20 years for women and 22 for men.

Based on the latest demographic data, up to 13 million marriages annually can be anticipated for each of the remaining years of this decade. Nearly 65 per cent of the population is under 30, and an enormous number of couples is now coming into the marrying age and could produce a child within the first year of marriage. It is little wonder that the slogans "delay marriage", "delay pregnancy", and "delay for ever having a second child" are seen and heard throughout China today.

There is potential for another enormous baby boom during this decade and well into the 1990s unless a large proportion of young childbearing women can be persuaded, bribed or even coerced into having an only child.

China is expected to increase its population by an additional 15 million in 1983, and in each of the immediate years thereafter. Yet planners suggest that for the next 17 years the annual population increase will have to be kept in the vicinity of 10 to 11 million or lower to achieve their target of a population of 1,200 million by the year 2000. These aims are considered over-optimistic by many statistical demographers and family sociologists.

To date some 16 million couples throughout China have pledged to have only one child, and some 100 million couples of child bearing age are reported to be active contraceptive users. However, Chinese family planning officials - as well as demographers believe that it would be necessary for at least 50 million young childbearing couples to pledge to have only one child, and for 200 million couples to use contraceptives if the Government is to achieve its goals for the year 2000.

Short-term goals have been proclaimed to reduce the present 1.4 per cent annual growth to about 1.2 per cent by 1985 and to less than one per cent by 1990.

Unfortunately there are now emerging several unexpected consequences of the birth control programmes which have been in operation during the last few years. One is the increase in infanticide, especially female babies.

In November last year the influential and widely read *China Youth Daily* published an article called "Save the baby girls". In addition to warning parents against such unlawful acts, it noted that "according to statistics a serious imbalance characterised by the ratio of 3:2 between male and female babies that have been born and have survived in the past two years has occurred in some communities".

The newspaper went on to note that "if this phenomenon is not checked immediately, there will be a serious social problem in twenty years' time when a large number of young men will be without spouses".

In his 1981-85 five-year plan speech to the National People's Congress last November, Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, warned rural peasants especially to "change radically the feudal attitude of viewing sons as better than daughters - and regarding more sons as a sign of good fortune". He encouraged the protection of "infant girls and their mothers", and called on Chinese society to "resolutely condemn the criminal activities of female infanticide and maltreatment of the mothers".

Before the one child family continued on next page

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CHINA



Continued from previous page

campaign, peasants could grudgingly absorb extra daughters: now they have little choice and most make up their minds to either kill a female baby or to let it live and try again for a boy. They would then of course incur the displeasure of village cadres and local party leaders who have to monitor the birth quotas and answer to their superiors as to the success of their efforts.

An additional factor, which does not augur well for the future educational or cultural levels of the rural population, relates indirectly to the recently initiated personal responsibility system (PRS), the euphemistic label for private production by peasants. This encourages the use of children's labour and could detract from the value of full school attendance, particularly in the case of girls.

In addition, some peasants are apparently prepared to forego the uncertain package of financial incentives associated with the one child family bonus scheme.

To counteract these tendencies some provinces have encouraged local units to make a "birth control responsibility system". Failure to utilize contraceptives or take "remedial measures" (abortions) results in a fine and cancellation of an agricultural contract and even withdrawal of private agricultural plots.

With an 80 per cent rural population, China needs positive rather than punitive government intervention on a large scale if the agricultural responsibility system is to be encouraged and a considerable reduction in family size is to be achieved. It is estimated that most rural families have and still want at least three children, and nearly 20 per cent of all rural births last year were third children or higher.

Until recently the absence in China of a corps of demographers able to investigate and

experiment in research design, survey and evaluation, precluded sound and accurate demographic advice.

Accordingly, the most important of the 1982 census results would perhaps be the discrete abandonment of the ethereal target of under 1,200 million for the year 2000, and the development of sounder, safer and more sensitive socio-demographic policies. It is certainly necessary to lower national population targets if they have been unsoundly over-inflated in the first place. But a change in goals, facilitating a population for the year 2000 of 1,250 or 1,300 million, would relieve the enormous pressures on Chinese families during the remaining years of this decade.

Stewart Fraser
Professor of Education
La Trobe University,
Melbourne, Victoria.

RELIGION

The right to worship in an atheist state

The traditional view that a Chinese was "Confucian in office, Taoist in retirement and Buddhist as death approached" once summarised the gutless practicality and eclecticism characteristic of the Chinese attitude to religion.

The contemporary state is officially atheist but its citizens are constitutionally free to believe in Buddhism, Taoism, Islam or Christianity as long as these constitute neither a threat to national security nor to health. The attitude of the state to religion has been ambivalent, ranging from tolerance to the destructiveness of the Red

Guards in the Cultural Revolution.

Officially, religion is combated with science in the assumption that it will slowly wither in the face of implacable logic. The usefulness of religious monuments in China's lucrative tourist trade means, however, that the atheist state pays for the upkeep and repair of major temples, churches and mosques. The price that monks, nuns, pastors and imams have to pay is that of large groups of foreign and Chinese tourists among the faithful.

Each major religion has a governing association which, in the words of Zhao Puchu, President of the Buddhist Association, "acts as a bridge through which the Government keeps in touch with Buddhist affairs and opinions, and its policy is conveyed to believers". The leader of China's Protestants, Bishop Ting, who visited Britain last year, is like Zhao Puchu, a skilled diplomat, constantly compelled to juggle Marxism and Christianity and balance conflicting interests.

The Constitution forbids "foreign control" of religion, so relations with believers in the outside world are one of the most delicate issues. Some think that it was outside support that kept Islam, Christianity and Buddhism going during the Cultural Revolution. Certainly the only religion with no substantial outside contacts, Taoism, appears to be in serious decline.

Numbers of adherents are difficult to discover since the estimates of the Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau are very low, and those of outside religious bodies often excessively high. There are anywhere between 10 and 20 million Muslims and more than three million Protestants (which is three times the number in 1949). There are probably between three and six million Catholics. The number of Buddhists is even harder to

guess, but some people have claimed that there are up to 100 million. Sadly, there are only a few thousand Taoists left. Confucianism withered with the end of the imperial house.

Many Chinese still appear to be Buddhist as death approaches, for one of the most flourishing centres is the Nine Flower Mountain in Anhui province, dedicated to Ksitigarbha, the God of Hell. This was traditionally a place of pilgrimage for the bereaved and now the monks hold an almost continuous cycle of masses for the dead.

Relatives pay for a mass with up to five monks dressed as Ksitigarbha in splendid red robes and as many as 30 others chanting for four hours. They travel for up to 1,000 miles to this place of Buddhist salvation, which also attracts young postulants from all over China. The majority of China's Muslims live in Chinese Turkistan, on the border with the Soviet Union. They are mainly Uighurs and Kazakhs, whose language and culture differ from the rest of China. Relations with the Chinese are often difficult and, by the Uighurs at least, are often expressed in religious terms.

To the Chinese Government, the strength of Islam among the minorities in this sensitive border area is potentially dangerous for it could provide a platform for separatism or discontent.

The outside world and the danger of foreign interference have played a major part in the life of the Christian Churches in China. After 1949 the Protestants quickly set up the "three-self patriotic movement of Protestants Churches of China", stressing allegiance to the new Chinese government. Tied by the implacable rule of loyalty to the Vatican, China's Catholics demurred. They were not helped by the Vatican policy of recognizing refugee cardinals in Taiwan and the upgrading of its representative there to full nunciature status. Though a Catholic Patriotic Association was set up, some refused to recognize it. In 1981, about 20 Catholics, including some Jesuits, were arrested in Shanghai for presumed loyalty to Rome.

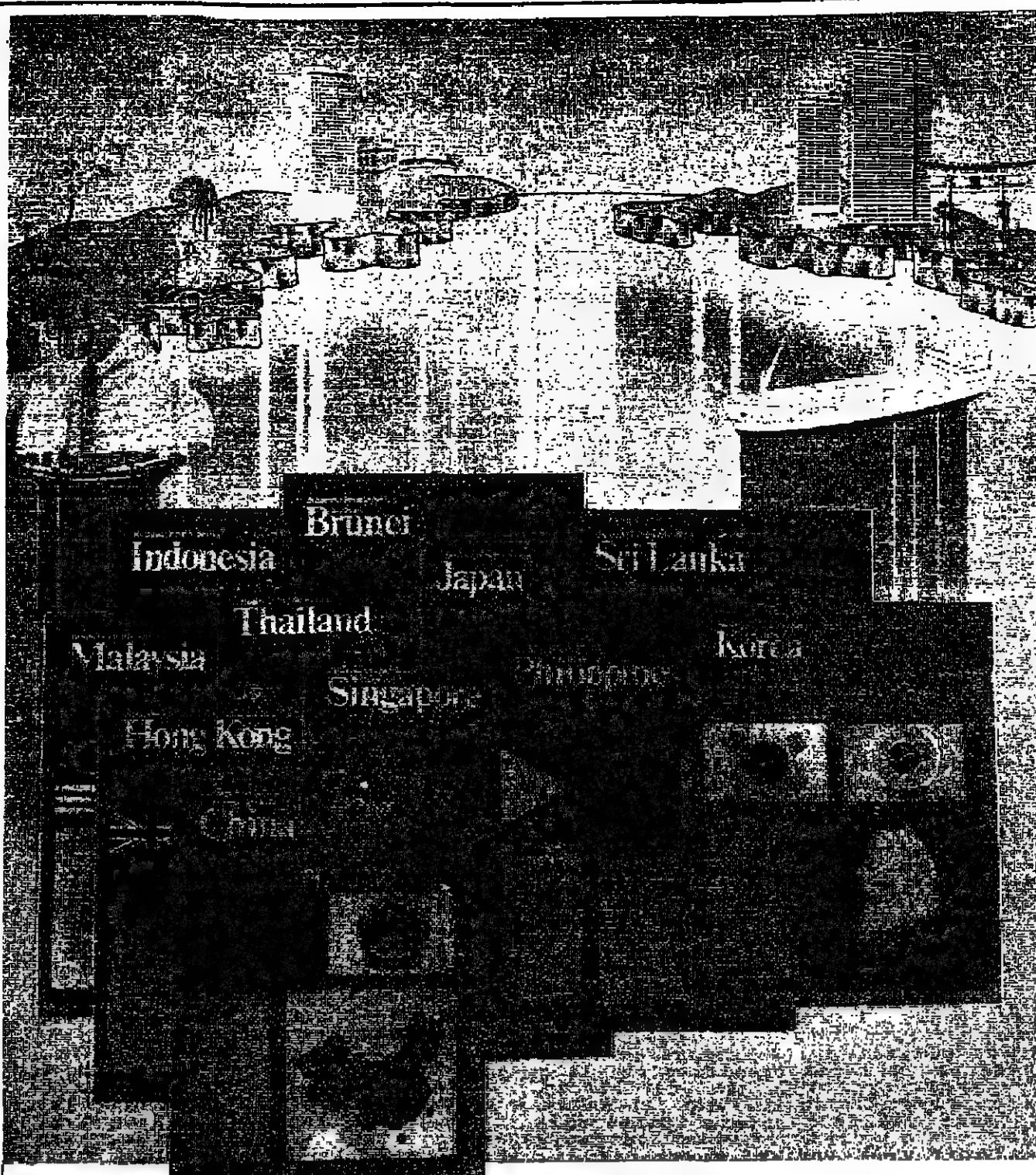
Though the Protestants have suffered less because of their relations with the outside world, they face some internal problems. A man called Witness Li (or Nee) formed a group called The Little Flock and then left for America. Staunch members of the Flock, one of whom kept a tame sheep in her Peking courtyard until anti-pet campaigns of the 1950s led to its slaughter, are placed in a difficult position by the betrayal and absenteeism of their leader.

There is also a rather embarrassing heretical sect called The Yellers. Acting on an unusual interpretation of a verse in St John's Gospel, they shout, "Thank you, Jesus Christ. We are greater than you and you are smaller than we". They are an embarrassment to the Protestant authorities.

The future of religion in China is not easy to predict. The slow decline of Taoism suggests that, without outside help, the future of religion is uncertain. Continuing problems with Catholics loyal to the Vatican suggest that outside support is also very provocative to the Chinese authorities. Even during the Cultural Revolution, people managed to maintain their faith with discretion. The great grandmother of a friend of mine was a devout Buddhist with no images to worship so she decided that a corner of the window sill was her altar and she prayed to that. Unostentatious practicality of that sort is probably the best method for the survival of religion in China. Excessive zeal would be both dangerous and out of keeping with tradition.

Frances Wood

The author, who is research assistant in the Chinese section of the British Library, has climbed three of the Holy Mountains in China.



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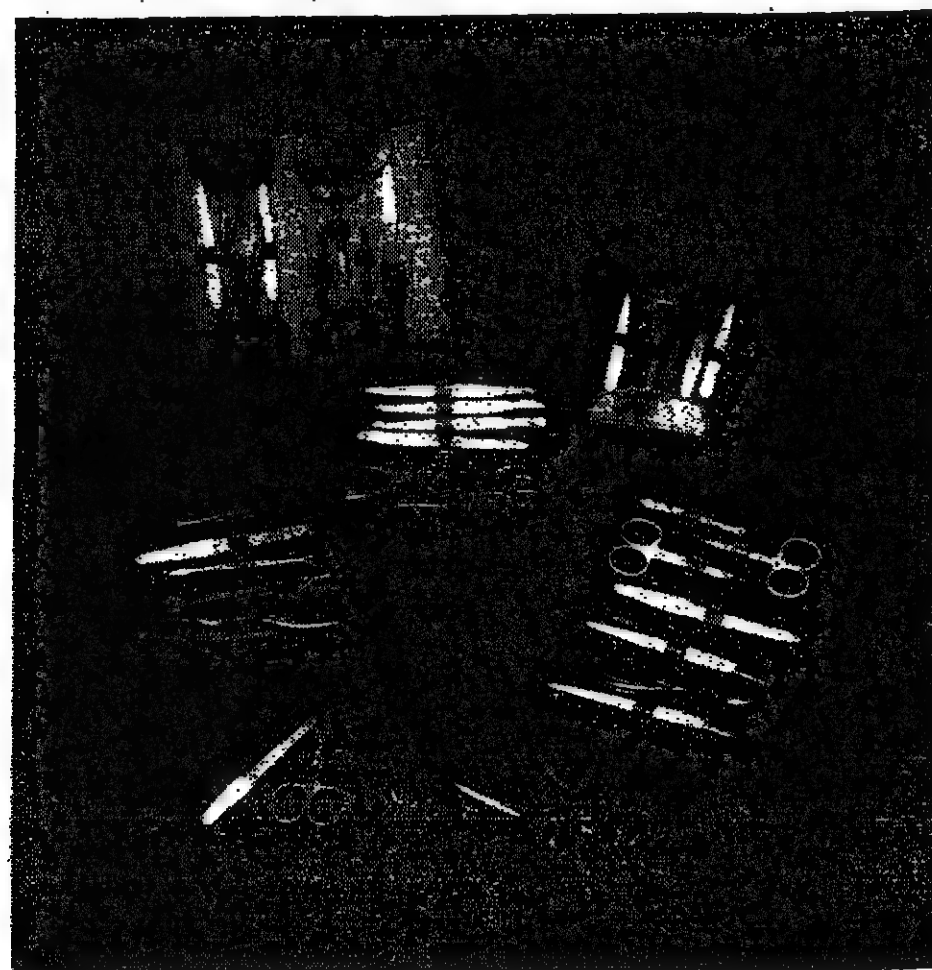
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China is the third largest country in the world after the Soviet Union and Canada. The articles below give the flavour of widely differing parts of this huge land area.

SICHUAN At home in Heaven's Country

Nowhere else are 100 million people so cut off from international life as in the province of Sichuan. It is probably only as the home of pandas and of a spicy cuisine that it impinges on the consciousness of the non-Chinese world. Even within China the province is isolated in the far southwest, hemmed in by mountain ranges, while the gorges and perilous rapids of the Yangtze long hampered communication with the more developed east of the country.

Sichuan's history has been turbulent. "When all the earth is peaceful, Sichuan is the last to be at peace. When all the earth is in disorder, Sichuan is the first to be disordered." Such is its reputation.

The province is happier in its natural endowments. "Heaven's Country" is its appellation, from the fertility of the soil of the Sichuan Basin, where climate and the works of man (the 2,000-year-old Dujiangyan Irrigation System, famous not from Guanzhong) combine to ensure the province against drought, yielding a splendid lushness of vegetation. Bright green rice fields under a grey, rain-filled sky provide the characteristic backdrop of the Sichuan countryside. Chengdu, the provincial capital, set in the Sichuan Basin, is reputed to enjoy less direct sunshine a year than London.

Most of the province's population (99,700,000 according to the census of July 1982) live in the Sichuan Basin, also known as the Red Basin from the red and purple colouring of its soil. The well-watered Chengdu Plain is the most fertile and thickly populated area of this basin, but even in the hilly parts, crops are grown on carefully built terraces.

Rice, wheat, rapeseed, sugar, tobacco, peanuts and cotton are the major crops on the plains. Maize and sweet potatoes are cultivated in both lowlands and hilly areas. The province is self-sufficient in grain but no longer exports it to other parts of China. Sichuan's citrus fruits are famous, and tea and silk production are being expanded. Tung oil trees flourish in the hills of east Sichuan.

Pigs and poultry, with buffaloes, are the chief livestock of the plains, with goats being reared in the hills. Sichuan's pig breeders enjoy an international reputation.

More attention is being devoted to the long neglected highlands of west Sichuan, bordering Tibet. Here, cattle raising and arboral crops offer good prospects and the region is expected to make a greater contribution to the province's economy. This sparsely populated area is inhabited by non-Chinese tribes. They are gradually being "sinicised" as the Han Chinese settle the valleys.

Reafforestation, both on the western plateaus and on the hills of the Sichuan Basin, is an urgent priority. Indiscriminate felling of trees was a major factor in the disastrous floods on the Chengdu Plain in 1981.

Chengdu is the cultural and political capital of Sichuan. Chengdu, however, is the largest city with six million inhabitants as against less than four million in Chengdu (in both cases the figures include the rural population of the two municipalities). Chiang Kai-shek established his wartime capital in Chengdu and Sichuan formed the base for resistance to the Japanese invaders.

In the last 30 years both Chengdu and Chongqing have been developed as important industrial centres. Textiles, machinery and chemical fertilisers are among the province's major industries while Chongqing and the new city of Duku in south Sichuan have large steel works. An ambitious scheme for a vast hydroelectric project in the Yangtze gorges is still in the planning stage.

The utilization of Sichuan's abundant resources of natural gas has been the province's most dramatic mineral development in recent years. Mining of coal and iron ore is also significant and Sichuan has the mineral resources to underpin great industrial growth.

The Chengdu-Chongqing line is the backbone of the provincial railway system while other lines now link Sichuan to northwest China (and then eastward to Peking) and also southwards to Yunnan and Guizhou. Main roads have been improved and extended and the Yangtze rapids have been rendered safer by the demolition of rocky outcrops.

Despite industrial and mining development agriculture is still the mainstay of Sichuan's economy. For 30 years the province's agricultural surplus

was expropriated at low prices, with little being given in return. In the Cultural Revolution fierce fighting took place in some Sichuan cities. By 1975 the province was in desperate straits and in that year Deng Xiaoping visited his native province to apologize for the way it had been treated.

Zhao Ziyang, as Party First Secretary of the province, then tried to revive its economy by, among other things, trying new methods of industrial management which gave more initiative and incentive to individual enterprise. Attention was focused on Sichuan to see the effect of these experiments, which now, however, appear to have stalled.

The new agricultural "responsibility systems" (effectively, a return to family farming) seem, on the contrary, to be going ahead strongly. Sichuan was a pioneer in the abolition of rural communes and in substituting new structures which separate administrative and economic functions in the countryside.

The province has begun direct export trade to foreign countries, and several restaurants controlled by the provincial catering bureau have been opened abroad. In an age when mini-states dot the globe with their diplomats, this great province is represented in the outside world, not by embassies, but by restaurants.

Audrey Donnithorne
Professional Fellow, Australian National University, Canberra.

GUANGDONG

Peasants flourish on rich delta land

Guangdong, China's most southerly province, covers 220,000 sq km, only a little less than the United Kingdom. Its population of 59,300,000 (64,700,000 including Hong Kong and Macau) is exceeded only by Sichuan, Shandong and Henan.

The province is one of China's great agricultural regions. It is a double-cropping rice area and its crops, especially sugar, peanuts, fish, fruit, vegetables and silkworms, are of great significance. Its industry is over-

shadowed by agriculture, although in terms of total industrial value it ranks fifth among China's provinces.

Guangdong has occupied a strategic place in the history of modern China. It was in the van of Western efforts to break down the cultural and commercial barriers surrounding China from the early 19th century.

Since the beginning of efforts to re-orient Chinese economic policies in 1978, the province has played a distinctive and innovative role. Remote politically and culturally from the central authorities, it has been well placed to take full advantage of changes which allowed individual provinces greater freedom to formulate new economic policies.

Guangdong is a province of geographical and cultural contrasts. Language marks it off from other regions of China and its long association with foreign commerce has made it open to influences different from those that predominate in northern China. From a northern Chinese perspective Guangdong was on the periphery of the Chinese cultural system.

The core of the province is the Pearl River delta, the cultural centre of Cantonese Guangdong and one of the most prosperous regions not merely of Guangdong but of the whole of China. Population densities in the delta are astonishingly high and the land is remarkably productive, with rice yields on the average exceeding 7.5 tonnes per hectare.

Offshore lies the island of Hainan, almost as large as Taiwan, and the homeland of several minority peoples. It has a vast, yet unrealized, potential as China's only year-round source of tropical products.

Other regions of the province, mostly mountainous, are extremely poor, with the exception of the small and densely populated Han River delta in the eastern part of the province, of which Shantou (Swatow) is the major urban centre, and the Maoming region in the west, where there is oil.

A significant degree of economic autonomy has been granted to the province since 1979. Its most dramatic consequence has been the creation of special economic zones (SEZs) in Shenzhen, close to Hong Kong, Zhuhai, next to Macau, and Shantou. Developments in Shenzhen and Zhuhai have been rapid. Shantou, like its counterpart in nearby Xiamen (Amoy) in Fujian province, is less favourably located and development has been slower.

The SEZs are administered directly by the provincial government and both Shenzhen and Zhuhai have been granted municipal status. The border at both points has been effectively pushed back and Chinese citizens are given entry to the zones only with special permits. There has been a great deal of investment in infrastructure

since 1980, the effects of which extend beyond the zones. The most noticeable is the construction of a highway linking Shenzhen (and effectively Hong Kong) with Guangzhou (Canton), and efforts to improve road conditions between Macao and the provincial capital.

The SEZs are not strictly export-processing zones. A variety of different arrangements are possible: direct investment, joint ventures, cooperative enterprises, compensation trade. The generally depressed economic conditions in 1982, and especially the slump in the Hong Kong property market, have acted as limits to growth.

The elaboration of rural development policies has brought significant changes in the Chinese countryside, especially in the more modern areas. Guangdong's foreign exchange earnings exceeded \$2,000m (about £1,315m) in 1982.

Peasant incomes have increased dramatically. Foshan prefecture, at the core of the delta, had almost 10,000 households with annual incomes over 10,000 yuan (£3,000) in 1982. Shunde county, notable for fish, sugar and silk production, had a per capita rural income of 700 yuan (£230), which is almost four times national average (and five times its 1976 figure).

Rural economic success has not been limited to the agricultural sector. Rural enterprises at the commune and brigade levels have taken advantage of relaxed economic policies to establish links with enterprises in Hong Kong and Macau. As the price of labour in Hong Kong and Macau increases, and as both territories shift to more sophisticated production lines, the processing of finished goods, especially plastics and certain textiles, has moved north to the communes of the delta region.

The countryside in the delta region is thus extremely prosperous and many peasants enjoy new housing and an array of material goods superior to those even in urban China.

Graham Johnson

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

XINJIANG

Ringing the changes in old Turkestan

The huge slab of what used to be called Turkestan is being slowly opened as a centre for

tourism and archaeological studies. Despite tension between the local Muslim population and the immigrant Han (ethnic Chinese), communications and living standards are being gradually improved.

Xinjiang includes within its 636,000 square miles the delectable oasis city of Turfan, known for its grapes and melons, and the desolate salt flats of Lake Aldin in the middle of the depression, the lowest point in China.

New hotels are being built to replace the primitive guest houses erected by the Russians, who used to be influential in the region. Air-conditioning will slowly replace the deep cellars where people seek refuge from the scorching dry heat of summer.

Since ancient times, people of many races and religions have striven to make the desert habitable. Water draining off the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

The Gobi extends from western Mongolia into northern Xinjiang, a stony wilderness where nothing grows. But the Tian Shan or "Heavenly Mountains" separate the desert from the fertile plain around Urumchi, the region's capital, and have tall trees and a cool, tranquil lake at 6,000ft above sea level.

Tent-dwelling Kazakhs tend their livestock in the foothills, while the more settled Uighurs - also of Turkic stock - plough fields and harvest wheat for the delicious unleavened loaves eaten by Central Asian Muslims.

Local officials decline to discuss the race riots which have claimed casualties at the remote outpost of Kashgar. In the far West, once a centre of Russian influence, though the Muslims and Han appear to maintain reasonably cordial relations in Urumchi, the Cultural Revolution caused great damage by its extreme-left hostility towards religion and traditional dress and customs.

Nor did Mao and his followers help by exiling more than a million youths from the Shanghai area to "temper themselves and make revolution" in the uncongenial surroundings of Xinjiang. The Chinese of the Yangtze Delta do not like mutton, milk or cheese - staple foods in Xinjiang - and were eminently unsuited to conditions there. Many of them have now returned home, though some have settled down in Central Asia.

The local culture is now smiled on by the Chinese authorities, and the Arabic script has been revived for the writing of the Uighur and other Turkic languages, replacing the modified Roman alphabet which was used to replace the

Russian-style Cyrillic script in the 1950s. Local imams are trained to read the Koran in Arabic, and a few have been able to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. Mosques again collect rents from property they own in the cities, to finance restoration and the training of young imams. The Muslims of Xinjiang are Sunnis, with the exception of the Iranian Tajiks in the south, who are Shi'ites and have given the authorities a lot of trouble, according to sources in Urumchi.

From the second century B.C. onwards, Chinese forces entered and at times dominated Xinjiang, and silk was exported through there to west Asia and Europe by two separate routes. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) there were highly civilized Buddhist kingdoms at the cross-roads, interchanging the influences of China, Persia, India and the Arabs.

Islam appeared in the eighth century A.D. but was eclipsed for a while by the Buddhist-convert Mongols. China vied with Russia for influence in the 19th century, and Xinjiang became a Chinese province in 1884. Russia maintained consuls and economic missions there until the 1950s.

Among the archaeological sites of interest are the caves at Bezeklik near Turfan, part of whose remarkable frescoes were removed by the German scholar Von Le Coq, some of the finest being destroyed by the Allied bombing of Berlin in the Second World War. There are also ancient tombs and former garrison cities built of mud bricks of a kind which one can still see skilled workers turning out at a rate of about one every 10 seconds to harden in the sun.

Visitors are kept well away from the Chinese nuclear testing site at Lop Nor, and from the long, sensitive border with the Soviet Union, where there was border fighting in 1969. Distances in Xinjiang are long, but a "Shanghai" saloon car with driver and guide may be hired at a reasonable cost.

David Bonavia

NORTH-EAST

Industrial heartland near Soviet border

The three northernmost provinces of China, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang - the area once called Manchuria but now known simply as the North-east - comprise what is arguably the most economically dynamic region of China.

Liaoning, the southernmost of the three, and the most industrialized and urbanized area in China, produces more than a quarter of the country's steel and iron and is the leading producer of cement and machine tools.

Heilongjiang, the northernmost province, is the most important source of petroleum in China. The Daqing oilfield, with estimated reserves of 2,500 million tonnes, produces 50 million tonnes of oil per year, approximately half of China's total oil production. With the largest virgin forests in China, Heilongjiang meets almost 30 per cent of national timber needs. It is the country's biggest producer of soybeans, sugar beet and other important cash crops and a leader in China's emerging dairy industry.

Changchun, the capital of Jilin province (and former capital of Manchukuo, the Japanese puppet-state), is the location of the No. 1 motor vehicle plant, China's largest. Despite their bitter climate and short growing season all three provinces are major producers of surplus grain. However, more and more acreage is being devoted to sugar beet and other cash crops following the liberalization of China's agricultural policies.

Farms in the north-east are vast and dwellings far apart, a sharp contrast to the tiny fields and villages pitched only a stone's throw from each other which are typical of most of northern China. The larger fields and much smaller population density make mechanization a practical alternative and the region leads in the number of tractors.

After displacing Russia, which built the first railroads in Manchuria and developed Port Arthur, now known as Lüda-Dalian, Japan, recognizing the economic potential of Manchuria, initiated industrial development of the region. The Japanese took over the southern Manchuria in 1895 and dominated all of north-east from the 1920s until the end of the last war.

Soviet aid to China in the early 1950s concentrated on the north-east: much of the region's industrial plant is of Soviet origin and dates from this period. The build-up was accelerated during the Korean War, when the north-east was a staging area for Chinese troops.

Investment in the region, and consequently industrial growth rates, declined during the 1960s with the cessation of Soviet economic aid and as Peking sought to distribute industrial capacity to other regions. As tensions across the Ussuri River heightened, Chinese planners feared that industrial bases in Manchuria could be vulnerable to Soviet attack. The north-east is strategically difficult to defend in that rail and road links southwards to north China are concentrated in a narrow strip between the Gulf of Bohai and the Nuluru Mountains of Inner Mongolia.

More recently, investment in the north-east suffered in the wake of the readjustment policies of 1980-81, which cut back heavy industrial investment in favour of less energy-intensive light industry. Higher growth rates should return this year with the further expansion of heavy industrial growth. The region should also benefit from the programme to technologically upgrade equipment in existing factories as an alternative to building more complete plants since it has a higher proportion of older factories dating from the period of Soviet assistance in the 1950s.

Russian influence is still apparent in the architecture and cuisine of Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang, though the once 100,000-strong White Russian community has been reduced to only a few dozen elderly survivors.

For the time being, the Japanese are the dominant foreign presence in the region, however. Representatives of Japanese trading companies and other firms are ubiquitous. Most foreign firms active in the area are engaged in trade or construction. Japanese firms are building a 300,000 tonne-per-year capacity ethylene plant at the Daqing oilfield and Fluor, a US engineering and construction company, was recently awarded a US\$50m contract for expansion and modernization of the Fushuo coal mine.

Robert Delfs

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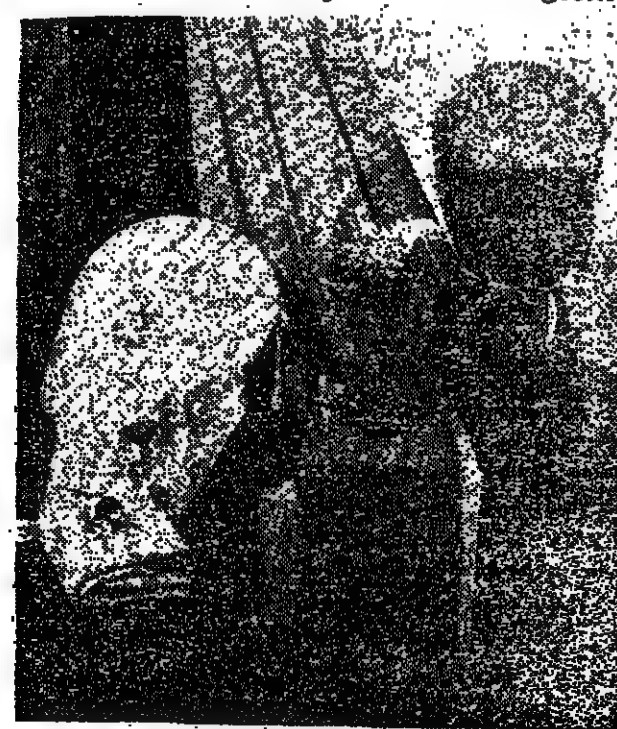
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THE ARTS

The Royal Ballet opens in New York

Classicism brilliantly debauching itself

Varii capricci

Metropolitan Opera House

The Royal Ballet appear to have invested Frederick Ashton as their laureate: his penultimate ballet, *Rhapsody*, celebrated the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday, and *Varii capricci*, his latest single-act work, is also a *pièce d'occasion*, made to launch the company's one-week season in the British Salutes New York festival.

Ashton plays up to the event by providing what is in effect a paean to the Sixties, Britain's *belle époque*. *Varii capricci* stars Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell, whose partnership (soldiered by Ashton when he brought them together in *The Dream* in 1964) is integral to this decade, as indeed are the names David Hockney, who designed the set, and Ossie Clark, who did the costumes for the ballet. The Sixties have special relevance for Ashton too: five of his finest and most enduring ballets were created then (*La Fille mal gardée*, *The Two Pigeons*, *The Dream*, *Monotones* and *Enigma Variations*). But anyone expecting sentiment or nostalgia will be as surprised as the New Yorkers were on the first night. Ashton robustly subverts the Americans' idea of the Royal Ballet — all refinement, reticence and style, epitomized in *Enigma Variations*, which

opened the programme — and shows English classicism debauching itself.

Wearing a spiv's satin suit and hair slicked into a dyed black quiff, Dowell is Lo Straniero, a strutting young gigolo who meets and dallies with the mistress of an Italian villa (Sibley) at an evening, pool-side party. Warning to the audience's raucous delight at seeing a great artist slumming, Dowell embellished the John Travolta touches Ashton has given him: the "chasse" walk, self-preening and a pose borrowed from Nijinsky's Fanny in which Dowell freezes sideways-on with fingers clenched and thumbs raised. Ashton has intuitively hit upon the mood of the moment in New York, where the hottest tickets in town are for *On Your Toes*, in which another classical star, Natalia Makarova, lets rip in a high-kicking supper routine.

Although in *Varii Capricci* we see a stagey side of Ashton that parodies the gentle humour we associate with him, the vulgarity is still in good taste. One way he achieves this is by using Sibley as a barometer of conventional classicism: her costume is Juliet or Ondine-style white chiffon, and her movements and duets with Dowell are designed to draw attention to her pure, stately Royal Ballet line. Sibley is right back on form, and although both she and Dowell had some difficulty covering the baseball-field of a stage,

seeing them perform together was to see time confounded.

Ashton has recruited eight of the Royal Ballet's bright young things as *Varii* amici. They are there to flank Sibley and Dowell, though characteristically his choreography individualizes them — especially the boys. The finale provides each with a chance to flaunt the steps he is best at: split-jets and penchées from Phillip Broomhead and Mark Freeman, scissoring jumps by Douglas Howes, fast skating spirals by Stephen Sheriff. Like birds, the boys are decked more flamboyantly than the girls. Ossie Clark bares their shoulders with chiffon festoons in sugary colours. The girls (Genesia Rosato, Karen Paisley, Gail Taphouse and Ravenna Tucker) match the boys colour-wise but are used more as a quartet. Several of their movements echo *Les Biches*, like the hand-on-hip épaulement and indolent shoulder-laugh.

The costumes for *Varii capricci* are periodless and oddly incongruous with the set. Hockney has combined the smouldering sky and the confifers from *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* with the primitive palm tree from *Les Femmes d'Alger*, and of course included his hallmark — the swimming pool with abstractions of sunlit water. Clark's lingerie fills seem camp and ineffectual against the strident *Parade* colours.

Hockney's set, loosely modelled on William Walton's garden in Ischia, was intended as a *jeu d'esprit* to amuse the composer, Ashton says, because it was he who initiated the ballet. "The Waltons were very proud of their garden, that's why it's a joke. But then William went and died on me so it can't be a joke any more," Walton originally composed *Varii capricci* in 1972 for solo guitar and had often asked Ashton to use it for a ballet. Ashton finally "jacked" it out of friendship for William. The code to the work, which he asked Walton to add, arrived from Italy the day the composer died.

Ashton's choreography faithfully illustrates the various moods of the score: the cool, *Gymnopédie*-inspired section used for a sinuous Sibley/Dowell pas de deux, the syrupy passages and the razzmatazz finale. Ashton also responds choreographically to nuances in the title: the word "capriccio" at once sums up the flexible central relationship and (in its sense as a musical term) the brevity and impulsive style of the piece, as well as describing its impact — that of a lively fancy, a whim. It shows a new flippancy in Ashton which the Americans loved.

Julie Kavanagh

The author is Arts Editor of *Harpers and Queen*.



The Travolta touch: Anthony Dowell with Antoinette Sibley

Cinema

Bergman's celebration of life's joy and terror

Fanny and Alexander (15)
LumièreThe Wicked Lady (18)
Leicester Square Theatre10 to Midnight (18)
Classic HaymarketA Swarm in May
ICA Children's Cinema

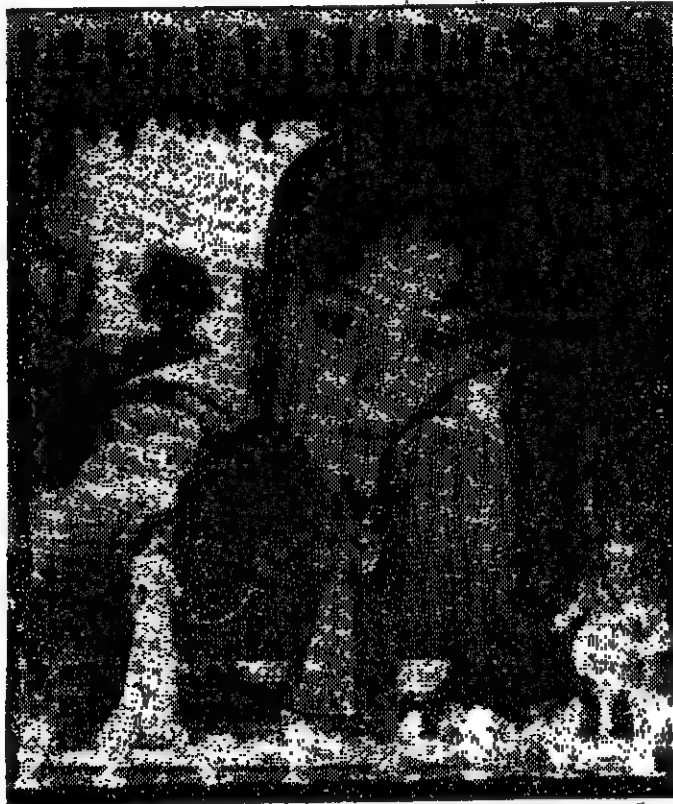
From the opening shot of young Alexander peering through the stage of a toy theatre, Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander* promises extraordinary cinematic magic. The promise is duly kept. Few recent films have rendered the act of sitting before a silver screen so pleasurable; few recent films have radiated such full-blooded human warmth. The story of the well-to-do Ekdahl family in a Swedish cathedral town early in the century takes a little over three hours, yet Bergman never lets us wriggle or peer at our watches; we become so drawn into the director's imaginative world that we never want to let the film go. (Another version

lasts two hours longer — this is designed for BBC television.)

Bergman's achievement becomes all the more startling when one recalls his previous production, *From the Life of the Marionettes* — a film with all the festivity of a mortuary slab, made by a director trapped in a cul-de-sac of painful emotions and rigid techniques. His release was triggered by a remark from a Swedish colleague, Kjell Gröder, since Bergman loved so much of life, he said, why were his films repeatedly depressing? So *Fanny and Alexander* was consciously designed as a celebration of life (with its terrors as well as joys), a spectacle rather than a conundrum. *Fanny* was also consciously designed as Bergman's last cinema film (in future he will work for television, opera or the theatre).

Characteristic themes dominate the canvas: intimations of mortality, the battle between good and evil, musings on the artist's role (inspired by young Fanny's and Alexander's father, who runs the local theatre). The personnel are equally familiar: Sven Nykvist, Bergman's cameraman for 20 years, personifies the director's aesthetic; like Harriet Andersson, Jarl Kulle and Eriq Lindqvist. There are also hints of autobiography. For Bergman, the son of a Protestant minister, experienced himself the puritan rigour under which the sensitive Alexander withers; some exterior scenes were shot in Bergman's home town, Uppsala.

But it would be unwise to dig for detailed parallels in a film so charged with mysticism. The basic story is simple enough: two children are prized away from their congenial, cluttered home when their widowed mother marries the local bishop; friends and family return them to warmth and safety. The complexities and magic derive instead from Bergman's second decorations: the brilliant kaleidoscope of moods. Early scenes resound with communal jollity: a flamboyant candle games with a candle, a bed collapses through too much bawdiness. Halfway through, the kaleidoscope darkens. The children are pitchforked into the spare white walls and forbidding faces of the



First view of Bertil Gove as Alexander

bishop's house, shot by Nykvist with striking clarity. Later, the tone changes again as Fanny and Alexander are conveyed to the antique shop of a Jewish family friend, snatched with peculiarities — a puppet, a breathing mummy, an epicure relative kept behind locked doors.

Some of the film's peculiarities are clearly heightened by the elimination of two hours' footage. After their establishing scenes, various Ekdahls fade away; transitions between sequences are cut to the bone. Yet nothing hampers the awesome command of camera movement, colour, decor and editing, or the adroitness of every performance (from Jan Malmsjö's chilling religious martinet to the beautiful warmth of Pernilla Wollgren's limping nursemaid). This is cinema at its most magnificent, and a perfect illustration of the film's closing quotation from Strindberg's *A Dream Play*: "Anything can happen, anything is possible

and likely. Time and space do not exist. On a filmy ground of reality, imagination spins: out and weaves new patterns."

Rather less, spanning and weaving (take place in Michael Winner's remake of the old Gainsborough saga of seveneenth-century naughtiness. *The Wicked Lady*, though the screen burns with other activities. Maypoles are twirled, breasts are bared, Fanny Dunaway whips a rival in vicious slow motion; rogues and doxies over-charouse at the Leaping Stag inn; an absurd Sir John Gielgud expires crying for "Sir Ralph" (Richardson) — no, it is one of the characters). I could continue for paragraphs, but the film is such a sitting duck that it seems pointless to take pot-shots. The 1945 version — directed by Leslie Arliss, a slender talent — was nothing more than a fatuous concoction built to satisfy the public's wartime fancy for licentious period behaviour. Michael Winner, clearly, was the ideal person to

make a contemporary equivalent. He has done so, moreover, with much of the original dialogue, which pours out of the hapless cast spiced with odd four-lettered addition. If the exercise was undertaken with tongue in cheek, then there is more cheek than tongue.

Ten years ago, Charles Bronson's vehicle *10 to Midnight* would have been directed by Michael Winner, but their old association now seems ended. Instead, Bronson is treated to J. Lee Thompson, a British director of an older, more demure generation. The Bronson persona appears unchanged: granite with a twinkle. The plot is equally familiar. "He's our man, Captain," Police Sergeant Bronson mutters, "and I'm going to get him." He does so by fabricating evidence against the cunning murderer of pretty Los Angeles girls and taking the law into his own hands. The Hollywood veteran William Roberts provides an untidy script, yet the product is slightly less reprehensible than expected.

Far from Los Angeles' walling streets, English cathedral choirboys intone in Latin, buzz buzz hives, source of the wax used for altar candles. This is the world of *A Swarm in May*, adapted from William Mayne's novel, produced by the astonishing Children's Film Unit (supervised by a former teacher, Colin Finbow, but manned entirely by children from 11 to 16). The soundtrack recording and dialogue delivery are flawed, but the colour photography is gloriously confident. The film's homogeneity also satisfies: here is a story about children growing into responsibility, filmed by children engaged in a parallel process through work in the Unit. As with their previous production *Captain Silvers*, Channel 4 helped provide money, but the Unit still needs a financial lifeline: funding organizations, including the British Film Institute, have been unresponsive, claiming the Unit slips between stools and sponsorship guidelines. They would do well to ponder on Charles Bronson's maxim in *10 to Midnight*: "Forget what's legal and do what's right."

Geoff Brown

Opera

Fidelio
Sadler's Wells

Here at last is a *Fidelio* that makes good, strong, simple sense. Jonathan Miller's production for Kent Opera, new last October, comes to London with the same cast and the same style of solid dramatic involvement. Maybe this is not the world's best sung *Fidelio*, but it has a quiet honesty that might easily be compromised by vocal heroics. David Johnston's Florestan is a case in point. His is an individual voice, gravely and gently noble, and he uses it to telling effect at every moment of his aria, expressing himself so truly that one almost forgets he is singing at all. It is the music and the situation that come across, not the voice, and the scene is a marvellous vindication of the Kent Opera style.

Teresa Cahill is also right in the spirit of the thing as Leonora. This is not a part she would wish to undertake, I imagine, in larger theatres or against a larger orchestra, but her young, vulnerable heroine works exceedingly well. Again she brings a gentleness to the opera, and a truth, her voice a warm flame of compassion and sensibility that holds its own well even in the jubilant finale.

She is of course just as well equipped for the domestic scale of the opening in this production, along with Meryl Dwyer as an attractive, unrivalling Marzellina, Mark Curtis as a fine, plain, Jacques and Thomas Lawlor a characterful Rocco. Their quartet shows Dr Miller working admirably to make a musical number seem a natural flowering of the drama, not an intrusion. Indeed, one great virtue of this production is the way music happens without any fuss, but comes always to cadence the action, so that the opera inevitably becomes a sequence of ever larger spans as the action becomes more poignant.

The tone of the orchestra is not often on the same level of straightforwardness. Rather Roger Norrington conducts a fiery account of the score, working like a poster artist to exaggerate images in the melodic or rhythmic movements in quick, bold lines. There is a second performance tonight.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Twelfth Night
Stratford

Quite a deal of poison has been seeping into this play over the past few years, but John Caird's production is the first I have seen that projects *Twelfth Night* as an all-out dark comedy.

This is good news not only for jaded old spectators who have seen the piece too often. There is a limit to the amount of fun that can be extracted from the drinking scene and permutations of Malvolio's letter in a play that was never more than intermittently uproarious. And there is everything to be said for muting the comedy for once and giving full attention to the central matter of the illusions and frenzies of love.

Ilyria in this version contracts to a love shrine. Robin Don (making his Stratford debut) offers a gloomy rock-strewn promontory flanked by an overgrown gateway to Olivia's estate and surmounted by the bare ruined boughs of a towering tree. Here the obsessed Orsino is permanently encamped; and the only modification for the other scenes is the withdrawal of the gate. The air is filled with the surge of the sea and melancholy sea music (by Ilona Sekacz), sometimes projecting an atmosphere of heart-break, sometimes swelling into operatic violence as for the first appearance of the shipwrecked Viola.

What emerges in this setting is a tragicomedy of erotic errors. All those involved in it are possessed and hurried on to a fate-over which they have no control. Mr Caird's company show most of the characters, even the lucky ones, to be mismatched. There could be no more hopeless union than that between John Thaw's swaggering, bullying Toby and Gemma Jones's Maria, not a merry prankster but a prim household

official, every bit as status-conscious as Malvolio, who characteristically dusts the tree stump before sitting down.

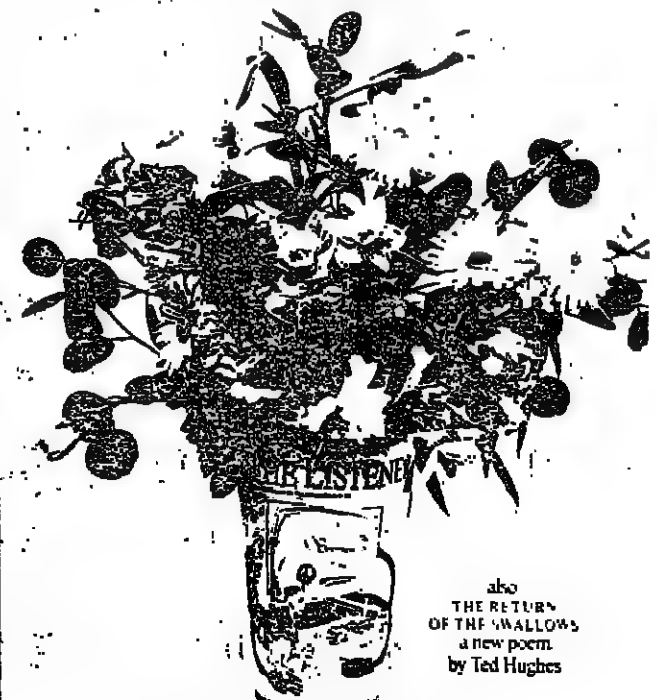
Sir Andrew is obviously a non-starter, but that news would be wasted on Daniel Massey, his face breaking into pathetically eager smiles at every sight of the icy Olivia. As for Olivia herself, she speaks for all the others in her lines on catching the plague. Sarah Berger plays her as a sharp-featured heiress to whom disdain comes easily, who is then reduced to naked vulnerability; and when she intervenes in the duel (Toby just having landed Sebastian a blow in the groin) she falls on the aggressor, fists flailing and pummeling him to the ground.

Most pitiful of all is Emrys James's Malvolio, a strutting velvet-uniformed grotesque who sheds all his self-love once his mistress seems to be within reach, and finally appears before her to put simple half-broken questions. When he gets his cruel answer, he bows respectfully to the company and only screams his last line after making a dignified exit. And it is no threat of revenge, simply an explosion of intolerable pain. As one of the few who benefit from the happy wreck, Zoë Wanamaker's Viola is at a disadvantage in a show that reserves its main sympathy for the losers. Her Viola, blank-faced and inwardly suffering, encompasses lyricism and fun but never takes over the emotional centre.

Of the non-lovers, the most interesting is Richard O'Callaghan's Feste. We have grown used to seeing Feste as the soul of *Twelfth Night*, but Mr O'Callaghan presents him as a razor-sharp and spiteful, observer of the surrounding follies; making a living out of them, and cherishing grievances with a real zest for revenge. The Topaz scene is the ugliest I can remember.

Irving Wardle

The Best-of-the-Bunch is back!



Not for nothing is *The Listener* well-known as 'The Best written, least partisan, and sweetest-smelling weekly magazine on the news-stand'. This week's issue is out now. Buy it and blossom.

Peter Fiddick: Television and the Nuclear Issue.

Robert Fox on his love affair with Italy.

John Cole on Election Fever.

Red Harrison reports from Australia. What did that tour achieve?

Julian Critchley on being misunderstood in Washington and London.

John Bowker: The religious views of wives and mothers.

THE LISTENER

Television

Intelligent and convincing case

That recent television soap opera *World War III* seems to have provoked more anxiety than John Pilger's anti-nuclear diatribe to which last night's *The War About Peace* (Central) was the riposte. Is Ronald Reagan really as bad an actor as Rock Hudson? Will a woman head the CIA? Will obscure events in Alaska destroy civilization as we know it?

Our fears were at least momentarily stilled by Max Hastings, who made the not unimportant point that our perceptions of nuclear war have in large measure been formed by film and television spectacles of that kind. And this is part of a larger point, that most people's attitudes towards the possibility of nuclear conflict are a compound of hearsay and fantasy, received opinion and

wishful thinking. No wonder it has become a favourite with novelists.

Mr Hastings's own film, although clearly designed to "balance" Mr Pilger's, did not suffer from an excess of zealotry or wishful thinking: it was so thorough that it became almost boring. He criticized the politicians just as sternly as he did the unilateralists and there were any number of "talking heads" with names like Beaufort or Dynorod to give us the facts. One could have done without Mr Heseltine or Vice-President Bush, of course, who inspire an utter lack of confidence, but the contributions of John Ericson and Michael Howard seemed relatively sane and judicious.

There has been in recent years a proliferation of documentaries concerned with the

perils of nuclear war, but "overkill" for once is valuable. The more excessively conscious we are of the dangers, the better. At least now we have a shared perception of the issues involved, and of that enemy of which the "arms race" is an expression. The element of miscalculation or ignorance which helped to provoke the two previous world wars has as a result largely been removed. This consciousness works on another level, also: nuclear weapons may not have abolished warfare but, as one practically anonymous American suggested, they have redefined it as a barbaric and senseless activity. There is no heroism with a Cruise missile.

It is doubtful, though, that this programme will change anyone's mind. Those with a pessimistic or lapsarian view of human behaviour will still consider nuclear weapons as an inhibiting force, working against man's "natural" aggression. Those of a more Panglossian temperament will tend to be unilateralists, in the hope or expectation of a benevolent reaction from "the other side". No amount of argument will affect what in the end are instinctive and, in many cases it seems, barely conscious attitudes. Nevertheless, Mr Hastings made his case in an intelligent and, for me, convincing manner — but, then, I was convinced already.

Peter Ackroyd

Concert

Sinfonietta/Pay
Queen Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

Early Britten is in favour. After the wonderful revelations of the pre-Op 1 Four French Songs, and the record including that cycle which Simon Rattle conducted, there seems to be a run on the 1932 Fantasy for string quartet and the little "Alla Marcia" for string quartet. Both have surfaced on Wednesday the London Sinfonietta, first acknowledged and numbered work, the Sinfonietta — scarcely an unknown work, but how fascinating its clarity and crispness now sound against the background of the voluptuous French settings of four years earlier.

The players were confident, a touch too confident in the over-emphatic flute solos and a little loose of rhythm, but the twin larks ascending in the second-movement variations were beautifully ethereal, and the slow emergence of the bassoon solo out of the intense climax was well handled. Antony Pay, once the Sinfonietta's regular and brilliant clarinetist, now a guest conductor, seemed less than fully at ease here (as a player he surely preferred conductors who cued less demonstratively) but through the rest of the evening he relaxed considerably.

So did the music. Indeed, Britten's Nocturne of 1958 sounded positively somnolent in Philip Langridge's sweetly

tasteful performance; though the timbre was always pleasing, he seemed unable to invest the quieter moments with real intensity. There were fine harp-bassoon and cor anglais solos, taking their part in Bach-like duets with the soloist; but there was always a feeling of detachment — which may indeed lie in the music, since it sounds so much less involved and responsive than Britten's best word-setting.

Les Illuminations, from 20 years' earlier, is far more successful in this respect, and Langridge seemed to respond to its rhapsodic conviction by opening up his voice, to great effect. If it times, in the interlude, for example, one yearned for the smoother sounds of a conventional chamber orchestra, there was much to be said for the Sinfonietta's strongly characterized "feeling," which Pay directed firmly: the sustained, muted textures of "Being, Beauteous" were magically lit.

The centrepiece of this concert was to have been a new work by the Danish composer Hans J. Abrahamson, whose *Wintermarch* the Sinfonietta gave earlier this season. But he elected to write a larger work for later, and so instead we had his 1973 Preludes 1-10: witty, striking little ideas for string quartet, exploring a C major fragment, or chords above a repeated A flat, or a near-Bach motif, with a gentle insistence that owed little to Reichian minimalism. To end, a jolly diatonic gavotte, and why not?

Nicholas Kenyon

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

US buyers flock back

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 22. Closing Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

of stock market prices sharply higher as blue chips established double figure gains.

The FT index closed 13.8 up at 692.0 - its best one-day gain since February 3 when it

with big American interests, 17p dearer at 231p. Recovery stocks also benefited. T Group rose 14p to 164p and GKN 10p to 161p. Only Glaxo missed out, closing 10p lower at 930p.

sliding to 340p, but recovered along with the rest of the market to close unchanged at 355p still reflecting hopes for big orders from the Hanover Trade Fair.

Good two-way trade developed in Commercial Union, Britain's biggest insurance group, with the shares ending the day up at 149p, despite Tuesday's report in *The Times* of increasing scepticism over the

group's chances of making the most from any recovery in the US market.

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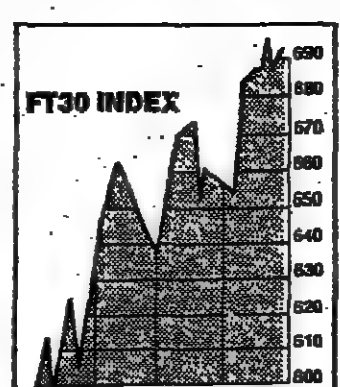
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FT30 INDEX

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BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

BRITISH FUNDS

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1000	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1001	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1002	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1003	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1004	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1005	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1006	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1007	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1008	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1009	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1010	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0

MEDICINE

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1011	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1012	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1013	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1014	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1015	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1016	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1017	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1018	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1019	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1020	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0

LONDON

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1021	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1022	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1023	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1024	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1025	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1026	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1027	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1028	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1029	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1030	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1031	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1032	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1033	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1034	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1035	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1036	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1037	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1038	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1039	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1040	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1041	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1042	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1043	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1044	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1045	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1046	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1047	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1048	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1049	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0
1050	99.5	99.0	Trust	100.0	0.5	10.0	10.0

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

213	207	198	Bank America	118	0	10.0	10.0
214	207	198	Bank of Montreal	118	0	10.0	10.0
215	207	198	Bank of New York	118	0	10.0	10.0
216	207	198	Bank of Toronto	118	0	10.0	10.0
217	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
218	207	198	Bank of the South	118	0	10.0	10.0
219	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
220	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
221	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
222	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
223	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
224	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
225	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
226	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
227	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
228	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
229	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
230	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
231	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
232	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
233	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
234	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
235	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
236	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
237	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
238	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
239	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
240	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
241	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
242	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
243	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
244	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
245	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
246	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
247	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
248	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
249	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
250	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
251	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
252	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
253	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
254	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
255	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
256	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
257	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
258	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
259	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
260	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
261	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
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264	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
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266	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
267	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
268	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
269	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
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273	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
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389	207	198	Bank of the West	118	0	10.0	10.0
390	207	198	Bank of the North	118	0	10.0	10.0
391	207	198	Bank of the East	118	0	10.0	10.0
392	207	198	Bank of the West				

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 892.0 up 13.8
FT All Share: 81.80 down 0.04
FT All Share: 499.00 up 5.29
Bargains: 23.858
Ting Hui USM Index: 172.0
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 8,543.06 down 21.42
Hongkong Hang Seng Index
1,001.48 down 8.89
New York Dow Jones Average
(latest) 1,194.37 up 2.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5435 down 60pts
Index 83.1 down 0.5
DM 3.7825
FF 11.36
Yen 365
Dollar
Index 122.6 down 0.5

DM 2.4540 down 55pts

Gold \$437.50 down 50 cents

NEW YORK LATEST

Gold \$439.50

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rate 10
3 month interbank 10 1/2 = 10
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/4 = 9 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4 = 4 1/4
3 month FF 12 1/2 = 12 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period March 2 to April
5, 1983 inclusive: 10.874 per
cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bastian Int. 14p up 2p
Charterhall 47p up 8p
Ranger Oil 495p up 55p
Reed Exec. 39p up 4p
Grootvlei 211 1/2 up 21 1/2
Jessups 56p up 5p
Barton Group 37 1/2 down 6
Aurora 8p down 1p
Dunlop 52p down 4p
Heliol Bar 32p down 2p
Argyle Trust 39p down 2p
H Samuel "A" 107p down 5p

TODAY

Interim: Newmarket Co (1981).
Finals: Allebone and Sons, Gaskell Broadloom, Helene of London, Scottish Northern Invest, Stylo.
Economic statistics: Retail price index (March), Tax and price index (March), Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Jan).

Lloyd's to probe goods cover

Insurance cover at Lloyd's on behalf of certain manufacturers and retailers of electrical and other domestic goods is to be subject to a full-scale investigation.

It will look at business done by Multi Guarantee in respect of which Campbell Roberts and Roberts Morris Bray, both insurance brokers, acted as Lloyd's brokers. The investigating committee will comprise a lawyer and the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell partners who were responsible for a previous report on the subject.

● ARGENTINE CUTS: Argentina has agreed to reduce its balance of payments deficit to qualify for a \$1.650m (£1,071m) standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a central bank memorandum in Buenos Aires. The maximum will be \$500m against last year's \$4,900m.

● DEAL CLEARED: The proposed merger of the automotive electronics interests of Lucas Electrical parts of Lucas Industries and Smiths Industries will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, the trade department said.

● GAS LINK: Imperial Continental Gas has bought an 87 per cent controlling interest in Amcana Oil Corporation, an exploration and production company based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for \$5.1m (£3.3m).

● AIR APPEAL: The privately-owned British Midland Airways launched a £100,000 campaign to enlist support for its application to compete with British Airways' shuttle between Heathrow and Belfast. British Midland, which has twice been refused a Civil Aviation Authority Licence for the route, plans a seven-times daily service.

● BTR BUYS: Stockbroker Cazenove and Co was back in the market yesterday for Thomas Tilling shares on behalf of BTR. Still offering 189.5p a share - equivalent to the 185p cash offer BTR is making for Tilling plus 4.5p of dividend contained in the current share price - it is believed the brokers picked up just over 1m shares. This takes the BTR stake in Tilling to just over 8 per cent.

Wall St still rising steadily

New York (Reuters) - Stock prices edged higher yesterday, moving close to the critical 1200 level on the Dow Jones industrial average.

The Dow was up just over three points from its record close on Wednesday of 1191.47. Advances led declines seven to four and volume totalled some 20 million shares in the first half hour of trading.

The market continued to be buoyed by Wednesday's news of a 3.1 per cent gain in the first quarter gross national product and General Motors' largest quarterly profit in more than four years. In addition, Chrysler reported a record first quarter profit of \$172.1m or \$1.97 a share.

A few experts believed some investors had programmes for brokers to sell automatically at the 1200 level of the Dow.

"The market is interpreting the economic news favourably, especially the gap report," said Mr Robert Stovall, Dean Witter Reynolds' vice-president.

Cope and Bilton bids in danger

By Andrew Cornelius
Takeover bids for Cope Allman, the leisure and packaging group, and Percy Bilton, the building company, appeared to be about to collapse yesterday at the first closing date for shareholders to accept terms.

Trust Securities, which launched a £107m bid for Bilton last month, has received acceptance for its takeover terms of nine of its shares and 260p cash for every four Bilton shares from just 0.01 per cent of Bilton's shareholders.

Bilton has contested the bid on the grounds that Mr Peter Jones, chairman of Trust Securities, was convicted of conspiring to defraud the Inland Revenue in January 1980. In addition the Bilton board has reminded shareholders that Trust Securities is a small property developer with 16 employees. It then attacked the Trust's Stockley Park development scheme, near Heathrow, on the grounds of very severe doubts about the value.

Despite the reservations, the Trust is extending its takeover terms for a further week.

The Cope Allman board announced that the Dowable consortium, headed by Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, had only won acceptances from 2.2 per cent of Cope Allman's ordinary shareholders. However, last night Dowable said that it now had effective control of 22.2 per cent of the Cope Allman share capital and had now declared a final closing date for its offer of April 27.

Cope Allman's shares are split between Dowable, which has bought a 16 per cent slice in the market, has a 3.5 per cent stake pledged to it, and 2.2 per cent acceptance, institutions which hold 50 per cent of the shares; and Mr Robert Maxwell's Hollis & ESA Group which holds 7.5 per cent shares.

Mr Wickins said that the current share price of Cope Allman was sustained at 61p by the hope that Mr Maxwell would outbid Dowable, which is offering 60p per share to value Cope at £23m. However, he said that if Dowable failed to make a bid Cope shares were likely to fall back below 60p.

Harrods managers 'against demerger'

By Our Financial Staff
The senior management of Harrods yesterday wrote to House of Fraser shareholders to stress their opposition to the Lorrho plan to demerge Harrods from the rest of the group.

The decision to write the letter, which was signed by 15 directors and divisional managers, was described by the Fraser board as "a spontaneous effort". "There was no pressure," an official said.

The letter said that the top management of Harrods recommended shareholders to vote for the resolution stating that

ICI, traditionally the barometer of British industrial health, gave a boost to both the stock market and the Government yesterday when it declared that the economic outlook is more promising than it has been for some time.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, told the company's annual meeting that ICI had "a very good March" and predicted that its first quarter trading figures would show a distinct improvement on anything achieved last year.

Although Mr Harvey-Jones cautioned his audience against going overboard about the signs of recovery, his remarks were enough to send ICI's shares up 34p to a high of 470p. The FT index also recovered after three days of faltering to close up 13.8 at 892.0.

The remarks will undoubtedly be seen as confirmation of the recent pronouncements by the CBI that an economic

recovery has begun, and will be seized upon gratefully by the Prime Minister and Treasury ministers.

Mr Harvey-Jones said that his cautious optimism when announcing ICI's annual results in February had been borne out. ICI's best quarterly profit performance last year was £83m in the second quarter, and this is now likely to be comfortably exceeded.

"More generally, there do seem to be some hopeful and positive signs of change in the economic environment," he said. "United States production has been picking up for several months, there is now evidence of renewed stability in Continental countries following the sharp deterioration in their production last year and United Kingdom markets appear stronger."

"Against a background of generally lower inflation, there seems to be a feeling of greater

Market index jumps 13.8 despite note of caution

ICI shares soar to record 470p on news of improved trading



Harvey-Jones: positive signs of change.

confidence on both sides of the Atlantic.

People should not allow themselves to be misled by these positive signs, and it was clear that many of the key factors affecting ICI's business were still volatile.

"But the outlook is at least more promising than it has

been for some time. It may be a false dawn, but it would be a pretty poor outlook if we couldn't take pleasure at some good news for a change," he said.

There has been strong buying of ICI's shares for several months, and yesterday's remarks by the chairman more

than fulfilled the expectations of the market.

The bullish statement helped to add more than £210m to the company's market capitalization, and means that stockbrokers are revising upwards their estimates of this year's full-year results to between £450m and £500m.

The company also revealed that the chairman, directors and 100 senior managers have all forgone pay increases of 8 per cent which were due to be paid to them in January. Mr Harvey-Jones who earns £150,000 a year, has waived a rise of £240 a week. "We feel we should not get automatic pay rises when the company isn't performing adequately," he said.

ICI made profits of £259m last year, down from £355m in 1981 and the 1979 peak of £613m. Last year's performance was "inadequate", Mr Harvey-Jones said. But although 1982 was an "awful" year for the chemical industry, the company had not been outperformed.

Exploration spending up at Shell

By Our Energy Correspondent

Shell is planning to spend a record £5,700m on capital expenditure and exploration this year, 8 per cent more than last year's £5,275m.

According to the Anglo-Dutch oil company's annual report, published yesterday, a significant proportion will go on the development of new fields in the North Sea. In real terms, however, allowing for inflation and recent movements in exchange rates, the level of capital spending will remain roughly flat, as it did last year.

Sir Peter Baxendell in his chairman's statement, said that present oil market conditions were a disincentive to the early development of synthetic fuels and several conventional oil developments could also prove uneconomic, especially if oil prices continued to weaken.

"Many governments will have to introduce fiscal arrangements appropriate to the new environment to encourage investment by the industry in producing hydrocarbons."

Sir Peter, whose salary rose from £170,049 to £192,553 last year, said the financial strength of the group, with £4,079m in cash and short-term securities, was reassuring as Shell faced up to an uncertain energy world.

Attributable loss of £80m at Dunlop

By Sally White

Dunlop is planning more cutbacks after the pre-tax loss of £7m last year, and loss attributable to share holders of £80m including extraordinary debits of £28m. The workforce in Britain has been reduced from 29,000 to just under 25,000. There is no final dividend.

Sir Campbell Fraser, Dunlop's chairman, refused to give details of this year's cost cutting plans. He was unable to predict when the Malaysian authorities would sanction the sale of part of Dunlop Malaysian Industries to Pegg Malaysia Berhad, which will bring in £55m cash. There were no plans, he said, to sell other parts of the business.

Pegg, which is now the largest shareholder in Dunlop with a 26.1 per cent holding has not

asked for talks. Speculation that Pegg might bid for Dunlop took the share price up to 60p recently although it closed down 4p at 52p yesterday.

The group's main problems remain in its European tyre business because of the pressure on margins caused by the slump in car sales during the recession, and growing imports.

Sir Campbell said: "Following the marked deterioration in the second half of 1982, the results for the year ending March 1983 are still below those for the same period of the previous year."

Overseas profits are up as a whole. The difficult areas, apart from Britain, are France and Ireland.

Investors' Notebook, page 18

Scramble for Octopus

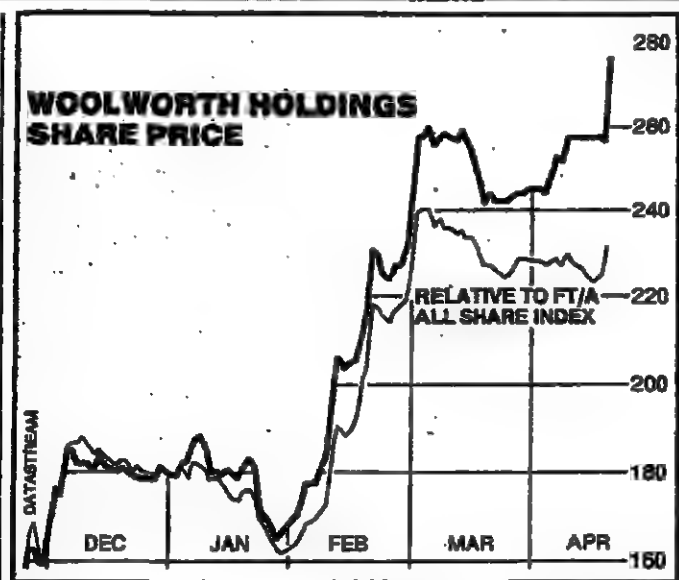
By Our Financial Staff

Institutions rushed for shares in Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus Publishing Group when the shares were offered for sale yesterday. Subscription lists were closed after the token one minute at 10.01am and it will be midday today before Rothschild, the issuing house, is in a position to announce the basis of allotment.

The sophisticated city insti-

tutions have bid between 340p and 350p for the shares, which were offered at 275p. But the tenders from individuals were much lower, which is thought to reflect the fact that they do not realize they will be called upon to pay only the eventual striking price.

At the minimum tender price of 275p Octopus was valued at £30.1m



Shares in Woolworth Holdings jumped 22p yesterday to a high of 277p on the news that profits of FW Woolworth had jumped 24 per cent to £47.4m - well ahead of stock market expectations.

The market was also impressed by remarks from Mr John Beckett, chairman of Woolworth Holdings, who told shareholders in a statement that

Woolworth is reviewing its merchandise to cut down the number of lines, and to ensure price competitiveness.

Investors' Notebook, page 18

Unions and Co-op to launch bank

By Our Banking Correspondent

A trade union bank with a starting capital of £21m will be set up later this year. Details of the venture were given yesterday by the Co-operative Bank which is setting up the bank jointly with the unions.

Mr Lewis Lee, chief general manager of the Co-op Bank said the new bank would start on a small scale with one office in the City. It will have licensed deposit-taker status and a normal application for a licence is expected to be lodged with the Bank of England in June.

So far 27 unions, including the Transport and General Workers Union and the General and Municipal Workers Union, have agreed to put up £1.25m and the Co-op Bank will supply the other £1.25m of capital.

"Historically, the British trade unions thought that the way to fight for power was by putting people into Westminster", Mr Lee said. "But the

more modern leaders, like David Barnett, have decided that because trade unions generate a lot of cash they should have an interface into the economy with this money."

News of the new bank accompanied the Co-op Bank's report and accounts for 1982 showing a significant drop in group profits from £3.63m to £1.69m pre-tax.

Rising bad debt provisions - up from £3.55m to £7.87m - and a heavy investment programme contributed to the decline although the bank itself stemmed the fall in operating profit to £3.9m compared with £5.3m in 1981.

Much of the damage was caused by the First Co-operative Finance House. The Co-op Bank expects the finance house to return to profit this year but last year its losses rose sharply to £2.3m and management has been changed.

ARTHUR BELL & SONS plc SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS

This independent Company did not become a public Company until late 1971. Since that time its main product, BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY, has grown to become one of the largest selling brands in the Scotch Whisky Industry. It is the market leader in the United Kingdom with twenty-two per cent share of the market and in the last twelve years there has been a dramatic increase in overseas sales. It is now exported to over one hundred countries and wherever possible it is shipped as cased whisky bottled in Scotland to ensure the high quality of its product. A highly trained team of Executives continuously travels throughout the world promoting the sales of BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY and the Company's other products through the appointed agents in each market. At its Perth Headquarters an efficient administrative unit ensures that the sales team and the network of agents receive the quality of service in keeping with the quality of its products.



The employees of the Company are extremely proud and honoured to have the 1983 Queen's Award for Export Achievement conferred upon Arthur Bell & Sons plc.



EXPORTS

£36 MILLION

EXPORTS

£3 MILLION

1971 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 1982

مركزاً من راحل

APPOINTMENTS

Turner & Newall changes top roles

With the post of group managing director lapsing at Turner & Newall, Mr R. D. N. Somerville will deputise for the chairman, Sir Frank Tombs, as chief executive.

In other Turner & Newall changes, Mr D. W. Hills has been appointed chairman of TBA Industrial Products and T. Glass Fibres; Mr D. G. Carruthers, chief executive of Ferodo, has been appointed a divisional chairman and chairman of Ferodo, Storeys Decorative Products and Extrudex Products. Mr Carruthers and Mr Hills have been appointed directors of T & N Materials Research.

Mr H. D. S. Hardie, personnel and external relations director of Turner & Newall, has been appointed chairman of the company's Nigerian subsidiary.

Mr Philip Massey has been appointed president of Royal Worcester Spode (Canada). Mr William Sherman has been appointed vice president, finance and administration, of Royal Worcester Spode Inc.

Mr Peter Woodward has been appointed deputy chief executive of Intasun Leisure Group in addition to his role as financial director.

Mr David Morris, a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados, has been appointed chairman and an executive director of the Caribbean board from July 16. Mr Bernard Clark has been appointed an executive director from April 29.

Mr Henry Prevezar has been appointed a non-executive director of Forward Technology Industries.

Mr Hugh Lang has been named a member of the Design Council until December 31, 1985. He is chairman of both P-E International and Redman Heenan International.

Mr Alan Permain has been appointed divisional director of Towce, and will be responsible for maintenance, smaller works and energy management systems. Mr Eddie Molnar has been appointed divisional director responsible for the electrical division.

After success with TVs and cars, foreign investment is target, says Graham Searjeant.

At last, a Japanese export from which Britain can benefit

Japan is now poised to achieve the same sort of dynamic impact exporting its capital and manufacturing expertise as it has at exporting televisions, cars and motorcycles. According to projections by the Japan Economic Research Centre, its real investments abroad could grow from just \$45,000m at the end of 1981 to a huge \$155,000m by 1990, making it second in the world investment league as it is among the world's economies.

Japan was preoccupied with postwar reconstruction and domestic growth until the late 1960s. Although it hardly started investing abroad until 1969, it had already amassed 7 per cent of the world's foreign investments a dozen years later. This is about the same as Germany or Switzerland and only 2 per cent behind the share accumulated by Britain over centuries. The United States accounts for two fifths of the total.

More than half Japan's investments have been made in the past four years. So, despite Britain's policy of investing much of the proceeds of North Sea oil overseas for the future, Japan is likely to sail ahead of us in short time.

The irony of this is that Britain looks like becoming one of the favoured recipients of Japanese investment in the future as it has been in the past few years. This is the result of a striking shift in Japanese policy, according to a new study written by this Far East specialist Felicity Marsh for the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Japan's push abroad can be dated from 1969, when its Ministry of International Trade and Industry started dismantling export controls and introduced a series of aids and incentives, including company tax concessions, no tax on Japanese employees working abroad, low-cost finance and government support against losses. The switch was an early response to economic success. Japan had just managed to combine 10 per cent growth with a hefty trade surplus and was afraid that the yen would rise too much if nothing were done.

But in the early stages Japan was preoccupied with its position as the leading industrial country most dependent on imported raw materials. Investment was first directed at securing supplies by helping and financing resource developments in Asia, Australia and also Brazil, which co-incidentally had the largest overseas population of ethnic Japanese.

The second phase was to transfer production of goods that needed cheap labour to be competitive at a time when Japanese wages caught up with the traditional advanced industrial countries.

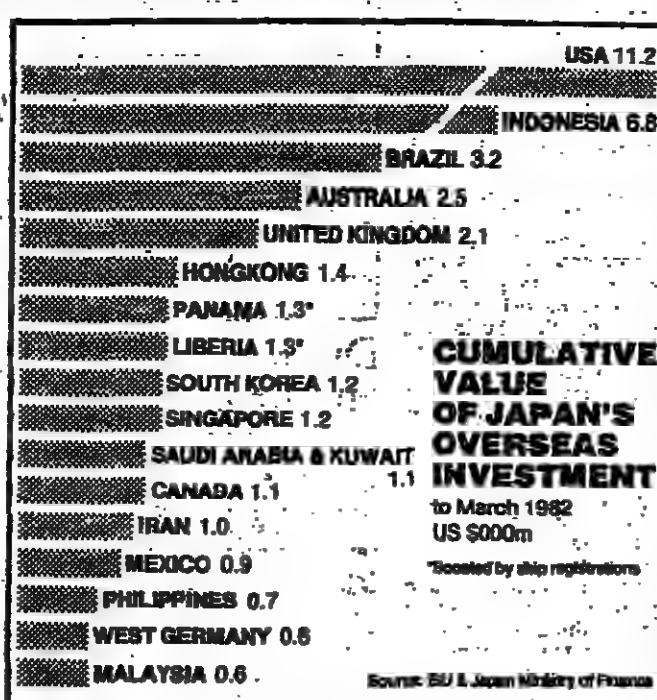
After the oil price shock and the general explosion of commodity prices in the early seventies, MITI went through another major rethink. The old heavy industries like steel, shipbuilding and petrochemicals, which had voracious appetites for raw materials (as well as Japan's scarce industrial land) would have to be run down. Instead, Japan started to export them to new bases abroad near the sources of the raw materials in order to concentrate on new high added-value, and high technology industries at home.

As it turned out, the big Japanese trading houses, with their unique combination of finance, trading and production, proved ideal for this process. Japanese companies are taking a strong lead over other industrial countries especially the US, at these big, "technology transfer" projects, probably because they are more flexible at joint venture deals with the host countries, better at providing low-cost comprehensive financial packages and undaunted at the prospect of organizing the huge infrastructure investments needed to make such projects work.

Indeed, the project ambitions of the top Japanese groups know no bounds. In 1977, the Mitsubishi Research Institute put together proposals for up to a dozen huge projects ranging from a New Silk Road to a tunnel across the Straits of Gibraltar and the damming of the Bering Strait, packaged as the Global Infrastructure Fund.

Most of this investment went to countries rich in resources or cheap labour. Interests in other advanced countries were largely confined to services, like the banks in London, or to local back-up for manufactured exports.

But since the post-1979



slump, MITI's priorities have had to change again as a result of the upsurge in protectionism in general and the increasingly shrill attacks on Japan's exports to the US and EEC countries in particular. The Japanese had three choices: restrain exports, increase imports or invest in local production. It was not a hard choice.

A fifth of Japanese exports are already subject to increasingly tough voluntary restraint agreements. And it is hard for even a willing Japanese government to guarantee that its highly nationalistic consumers will lap up foreign manufactures, however much they may now buy American basic foods.

This has led to a significant switch to invest in other leading industrial countries and a much greater emphasis on building manufacturing plants in its biggest markets. As the EIU report suggests, "the image of Japan as a force for the revitalization of sectors of industry in the West will go some way to sugaring the pill as

Japanese dominance or ownership of much of these industries." There are side benefits of this switch such as greater political security, more intimate connection with electronic technology centres and, in Britain, lower wages than back home. But protectionism is the spur.

The US is taking the lion's share of this new wave of investment. It is projected to take \$44,000m of that \$155,000m in 1990. But Britain is already clearly the second most likely recipient. We already account for 4.7 per cent of Japan's overseas investments, fifth in the league. We have nearly half the total for Europe and three times that of our nearest rival, West Germany.

This trend is likely to continue. Apart from cheap labour, the familiar reports from Japanese-managed factories in Britain making anything from zips to television sets show a broadly happy picture for both sides and the Japanese

have clearly formed an attachment for South Wales. In the latest official survey, the main Japanese complaints centred on their children learning English with Welsh accents and on the paucity of Japanese restaurants outside London.

Given this, Britain has overwhelming language advantages for the Japanese, who learn English at school but are, on the whole, no better linguists than ourselves.

Britain, on the other hand, has yet to decide how enthusiastically it wishes to form an alliance with Japanese companies as their platform for the European market.

There are clearly doubts. After all, the Government extols the value of our investing abroad as a platform for our own expansion and what use for us must also be true for Japan. This, more than anything, has so far dogged the crucial proposed Datsun car plant, biggest of 15 to 30 extra investment projects now in the pipeline. British component makers fear Japan will do them out of business by importing, while car builders looking at the UK market fear that Japanese-owned production will simply replace their own.

The evidence is inconclusive. But it does suggest that in some industries at least, Japanese capacity abroad replaces that at home rather than local factories. And, with Britain's position as a fairly small segment of the European market, extra imports into Britain from Japan are likely to be outweighed by Anglo-Japanese exports to the continent. Sony, for instance, has won a Queen's award for export. Imports are only a threat if you think in the narrow terms of bilateral trade.

But it is vital that Britain should make its mind up whether or not to back Anglo-Japanese enterprise to the hilt. Italy failed to import of British-made Sony television sets.

But the Triumph/Honda incident was a reminder that France and Italy in particular will demand, impossibly high local content for cars and many other products if they are to be classified as made in the EEC for tariff purposes. If we are to get the benefit of Japanese investment, Britain will have to lobby hard to protect its new Japanese-aided export markets in Europe.

Japanese Overseas Investment, the new challenge by Felicity Marsh, Economist Intelligence Unit, £45.

Industrial notebook

The paradox of oil policies

Those who are partial to current affairs quizzes might care to try this question. Which leading politician delivered himself a few days ago of the following remarks: "The market place is no textbook model, no abstract set of equations. It is a bustling imperfect real world of conflict and cooperation, of risk and reward, of expectations and uncertainties".

Hardly profound words, perhaps, but ones that would do - at a pinch - as the rationale for a left-wing government's policy of intervention in industry. The fact that they were spoken by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, a Tory whose devotion to the free market has previously been thought to know few bounds, makes them rather unusual.

But then the political complexities and diplomatic niceties of the international oil market - the "imperfect real world" to which Mr Lawson was referring - has thrown up quite a few paradoxes in recent weeks, all stemming from the deep and uncomfortable ambivalence with which this Government regards North Sea oil.

Ever since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) craftily, but unkindly, dumped responsibility for the future oil prices in Britain's lap by challenging us to wreck their precarious oil pricing agreement by bringing down the price of North Sea oil, Mr Lawson has been in the thick of it. In rapid order he has found himself having to justify and defend a series of propositions which appear to be out of kilter with his political instincts.

High oil prices may have been the economic scourge of the 1970s, but it would be damaging if they were now to fall as sharply as they once rose. Mr Lawson repeated at an absorbing session this week of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The Government believes that market forces should, and do, prevail in the oil business as in every other, but it also has a legitimate right to exercise its influence on the

interests of oil price stability by "smoothing out" the imperfections of the market. And although the Government came to power determined to abolish the British National Oil Corporation, the state-owned trading company has a useful role to play and has presented "an object lesson" in promoting stability in recent weeks.

Whatever they might think of the wisdom of the course he has adopted, few observers can fail to be impressed by the delicate way in which the Energy Secretary has picked a path through the appalling complexities, posed by the conflicting demands of the oil companies, Saudi Arabia, other Opec members, the Reagan Administration and (not least) the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is probably not being too cynical to suggest that the Government might have taken a more relaxed view of Opec's challenge if an election was not coming up.

Although what happens next to world oil prices is still not certain, it is already clear that some review of BNO's role is called for. It is abundantly evident that the participation agreements designed to guarantee Britain's oil supplies in times of shortages leave the corporation painfully exposed when the market is awash and prices are falling.

If BNO had not existed, Opec would not have been able to lumber the Government with the threat of being held responsible for an oil price crash; and if it did not exist, it seems unlikely that Mr Lawson, whatever his views about the consequences of a price crash, would have decided to invent it.

Having got the creature, however, it would seem foolish to abolish it now, when it has proved it can play a constructive and apparently effective role in communicating the Government's wishes on the oil price front, wishes that the Government has shown it wants to impart.

Jonathan Davis

IMI

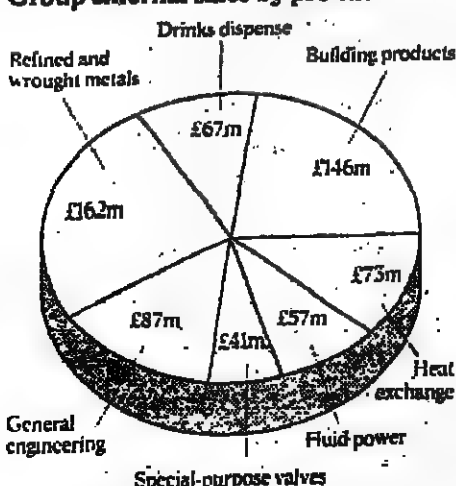
BUILDING PRODUCTS - HEAT EXCHANGE - DRINKS DISPENSE - FLUID POWER
SPECIAL PURPOSE VALVES - GENERAL ENGINEERING - REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

Some upturn in our confidence

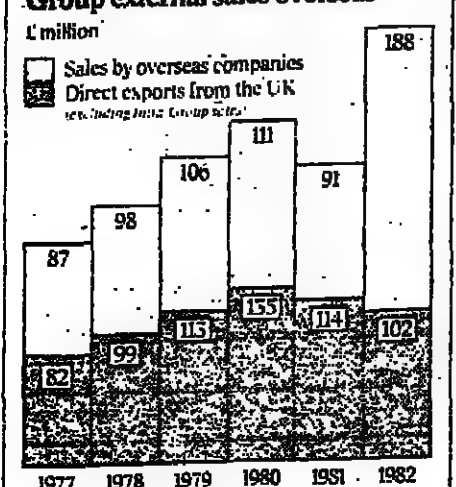
Sir Robert Clark, Chairman, reports on a year of mixed fortunes:

A somewhat depressing first half was followed by more encouragement in the second. In total, trading profits amounted to £33.5 million, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1981 figure, but higher interest charges meant that profit before tax fell by £1.9 million to £21.9 million. 46 per cent of total turnover was sold abroad, 30 per cent being overseas manufactures which generated 44 per cent of trading profit, a figure which underlines both the harshness of the trading climate in the UK and the validity of our policy of increasing our overseas involvement. Our balance sheet remains strong.

Group external sales by product areas



Group external sales overseas



Summary of Results		
	1982 £'000	1981 £'000
Sales to external customers	632,639	532,468
Group trading profit	33,533	28,882
Profit before taxation	21,947	23,808
Earnings applicable to shareholders	10,747	15,303
Total assets	337,563	324,525
Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items)	4.7p	7.9p
Dividend per share	3.5p	4.5p

Cornelius - World Leader in Drinks Dispense

IMI has now established itself as a world leader in the design, manufacture and sale of dispensing equipment for draught soft drinks, beer, juices, cider, wine and other beverages. The IMI Cornelius Group has a global annual turnover approaching £100 million, with twelve manufacturing sites in the USA, Canada, Brazil, Spain, Germany and the UK.

Sir Robert summarises the steps taken to combat the recession, and the Company's prospects, thus: "We certainly have become fitter to survive in the current world of low activity and hard competition. We have significantly cut many forms of cost; we have reduced our dependence on products most vulnerable in times of recession; we have strengthened our position in business areas of higher growth and added value; and we have increased our overseas involvement. In an expanding economy I am confident of our ability to prosper."

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 29 JANUARY 1983

"Since Woolworth Holdings assumed control of F W Woolworth last November, my confidence has increased in the potential that this imaginative acquisition has presented"

John Beckett, Chairman.

Trading Results

The trading profit for F W Woolworth and its subsidiaries increased by nearly 24% to £58.4 million. The main part of the increase was attributable to B & Q, our DIY chain.

Profits from the sale of properties were £16.2 million, virtually the same as the previous year.

The resultant profit before tax for F W Woolworth for the year was £47.4 million (before extraordinary items of £6.8 million) compared with £38.3 million the previous year.

The pro-forma annualised income statement for Woolworth Holdings shows that the profit before tax and extraordinary items would have been £20.5 million if Woolworth Holdings had owned F W Woolworth for a full year.

The First Steps

On assuming control, a thorough review of Woolworth's operations was put in hand. A number of matters which prompted immediate action soon became apparent:

□ We have instituted a full-scale review of the merchandise range to eliminate

unnecessary lines and an assessment of our prices to ensure we become competitive.

□ We introduced a new organisation structure in the field and reduced the size of our head office.

□ We commenced a programme to reduce excessive stocks.

□ Two relatively new trading ventures, namely Shoppers World and 21st Century, were unlikely to become profitable. Action is being taken.

□ We stopped property disposals until our review of the business is complete.

The Future

For the longer-term future, I am confident the Company can look forward with optimism.

We have to identify what the customer wants and those wants that we can satisfy; we have to establish a clear position for Woolworth in the High Street in which it can excel.

I am paying particular attention to management and organisation. The ambiguities must be removed and clear objectives set for each part of the organisation. We have already taken some steps to divide the group into more manageable units. 99

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 19 May. Non-shareholders who would like to receive a copy should write to Nigel Whitaker, Company Secretary, Woolworth Holdings plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS plc

IMI means more than metal

The Annual Report has a comprehensive survey of IMI's activities. If you would like a copy please write to the Secretary, IMI plc, P.O. Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA.

Israeli pull-out demand by Begin ministers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The rapidly mounting toll of Israeli deaths and injuries in Lebanon has prompted a minority inside the coalition Cabinet to try to press the Begin Government to stage a unilateral withdrawal to the new front line extending approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Israel's border.

Any such move would effectively partition Lebanon into zones of Israeli and Syrian influence, and leave Israeli troops and their Christian militia allies in control of the security zone which Israel has been demanding since negotiations on troop withdrawal opened last December.

It is reliably understood that the Israeli defence establishment has already drawn up detailed contingency plans for such a limited pull-back.

The campaign in the Cabinet, which is led by Mr Mordechai Ben-Porat, Minister without Portfolio, intensified yesterday after the killing of two more young Israeli officers in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas who attempted to infiltrate from Syrian held territory near the Beirut-Damascus highway on Wednesday. All four guerrillas were killed.

Last night the military command disclosed that another Israeli soldier had been killed in a guerrilla ambush near the devastated Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

It was the first time this year that the Israeli Army had lost three men in Lebanon in a 24-hour period.

Mr Ben-Porat, who claims to have already secured the support of four other ministers, including Mr Ashron Uzan, Minister of Labour, argued that the attack underscored the need for Israel to consider only its own security needs in Lebanon. He added that a unilateral pull-back to the 50-kilometre line was more urgent than ever.

The minister will attempt to persuade the Cabinet to debate his controversial proposal when it meets again next Sunday. He is suggesting an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf mountains - the scene of regular skirmishes between Christian and Druze militia - to a line which would be marked by the Al Awali river.

Before his remarks were publicised, Israeli military experts reported independently that such a plan was already under consideration for use if the tripartite negotiations failed to reach a satisfactory agreement on Israeli security requirements.

In outlining his scheme, Mr Ben-Porat was critical of the role being played by the Reagan Administration, which he accused of being prepared to abandon Israel's security interests in order to further America's position in the Middle East.

It is known that a number of senior ministers are sympathetic to the idea of a partial pull-back, although it would require an Israeli military presence inside Southern Lebanon for an indefinite period.

The Government is not unhappy to see the subject being raised at present, as it is deemed likely to pressure the Lebanese to accept more of Israel's security demands.

The killing of the Israeli soldiers has increased calls for a unilateral pull-back to the proposed security zone from Opposition spokesmen in Israel.

Mr Amnon Rubenstein, leader of the left-wing Shinui party, yesterday added his voice to the campaign, and Mr Gad Ya'acobi, a Labour member of the Knesset, called on his party to consider adopting the idea as Opposition policy.

Mr Yossi Sarid, a leading Labour deputy, claimed that Israel was now paying "daily in blood" for no possible security or political gains in Lebanon.

Before news of the latest killings had reached Israel, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, said that he was against a complete Israeli pull-out but not against the idea of a partial retreat.

Mr Rabin told a conference of kibbutz members: "If it appears that the talks are bogged down hopelessly, then we should fall back from the Shouf mountains to a line 45 kilometres from our northern settlements, and tell the Lebanese to bust their own heads on the problem."

In diplomatic circles, there are fears that any such Israeli move would increase the potential for renewed conflict with Syria. Signs have been multiplying ominously in recent weeks that military preparations are under way in Syria, but the Israeli Government claims it is not yet clear whether they are offensive or defensive in nature.



Heavy cranes searching the rubble of the American Embassy in Beirut three days after the blast. They uncovered nine more bodies, bringing the total death toll to 47. (Witness freed, page 6)

Thatcher keeps party in doubt over poll date

Continued from page 1

yesterday, still have no notion of whether her preference is for a June or an October election.

Sir Geoffrey Howe was said yesterday to be curious to know the source of confident reports that he himself favours June. It is not denied, however, that he does.

The Chancellor impressed those who have been in his company recently with his genuine confidence that the domestic economy is mending. The retail price figures for March to be published today, are expected again to show an annual inflation rate of less than 5 per cent.

Labour campaign, page 2

Parliamentary report, page 4

BL attempts to break strike

Continued from page 1

management would be reactivated. It was considered likely, however, that further talks aimed at averting that prospect could take place over the weekend.

The unions have told the management that they will want to speak to the company once the result of the mass meeting is known. Local officials of the TGWU and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will urge the strikers not to bow to pressure from the company.

As part of their strategy to increase pressure on the strikers BL sent out letters to all those involved urging them to vote today for a return to work.

It became apparent last night that the two sides were close to reaching agreement at one stage during the 16 hours of talks, but the gulf widened as the BL executives refused to concede union requests that the three minutes washing time at the end of each morning and afternoon shift should be either retained or bought out.

However, the biggest worry is the effect of the lost production on Austin Rover sales in the boom month of August which regularly accounts of a one-fifth of all cars sold annually. If the strike ends quickly BL will have had to meet existing demand, let alone begin stockpiling.

About 22,000 Maestros were produced before the strike. Of these it is estimated that about 8,000 remain unsold. On paper that is sufficient for about one month's cover. In practice as soon as showroom selections are reduced, sales are lost.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A miracle recovery for Finchley mother of two

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the 57-year-old Finchley mother of two who was taken ill with election fever at Prime Minister's question time last Tuesday, yesterday appeared to stage a miracle recovery.

It was understood that Mrs Thatcher owed her complete return to normal to the dedicated work of a team of top British brain surgeons, Saatchi and Saatchi.

She was in such relaxed form that she was able to deny that she had ever been unwell at all. This amazing denial came after Mr Thomas Cox, the Labour backbencher, putting the first question of the day to her, observed: "The whole House will now hope that the Right Hon lady has made a complete recovery from the hysterical outburst we saw in the House on Tuesday" (Unidentified Labour backbencher cry: "Not too complete!").

Mr Cox was referring to Mrs Thatcher's seizure on Tuesday when she began addressing Mr Denis Healey as if he were Mr Denis Thatcher. Mr Healey accused her of wanting to "cut and run" by calling an election in June. In a terrifying outburst, she accused him of being, among other things, "frit".

Those of us from the Home Counties ethnic community had no idea what she was talking about, and assumed her to be delicious. But we have since learned that "frit" is a word from her native provincial *Patois* and means "frightened" or "wary" of subjecting oneself or one's party to an immediate plebiscite on the basis of mass adult suffrage.

Anxious to raise more than one subject while he had her attention, Mr Cox went on to accuse her, *inter alia*, of "smearing the leaders of CND", turning Britain into "Reagan's European fortress" and not being sufficiently bothered about "weapons of mass destruction".

This gave Mrs Thatcher an opportunity to avoid replying to his inquiry about her recovery, and to concentrate on the more routine topic of mass destruction. "If one wishes to retain freedom to discuss in this country, including that for CND, one must have the will, the means and the courage to defend ourselves, and on the Conservative side we have," she said, sitting down to Tory cheers.

"And have you recovered?" called Mr Cox. She remained seated, making as if she had no idea to what he had possibly be referring.

Suddenly, Mr David Crouch, the Conservative backbencher, tall, silver-haired, intently respectable man from Canterbury who has never had a day's hysteria in his life, suddenly has a seizure. "Has the Prime Minister noticed this week that a constituent of mine, Mr Mike Gratton, won the London marathon?" Mr Crouch started raving, "and that in doing so he demonstrated that there is nothing wrong in cutting across running provided one wins?"

"I venture to suggest that she should herself consider having a go in the near future, and she would walk it."

Mrs Thatcher congratulated Mr Crouch's constituent. "As to cutting and running, we intend to cut the number of seats held by the Labour Party and continue to run the country," she added.

Then Mr David Steel, for the Liberals, accused her, which was no more than the truth, of suffering from "electionitis". Being the leader of the caring party he was clearly anxious that above all she should be encouraged to talk openly about it. "I do not think I have done anything except answer questions put to me," she replied, thus displaying the well-known post-operative symptoms.

Finally, the verdict in the case of the London woman, Miss Ruth Hall, of Women Against Rape who allegedly interfered with a right-wing Tory MP, Mr Harvey Proctor. (See this space, yesterday). In a short debate, Mr Proctor, in said Miss Hall should appear before the Committee of Privileges.

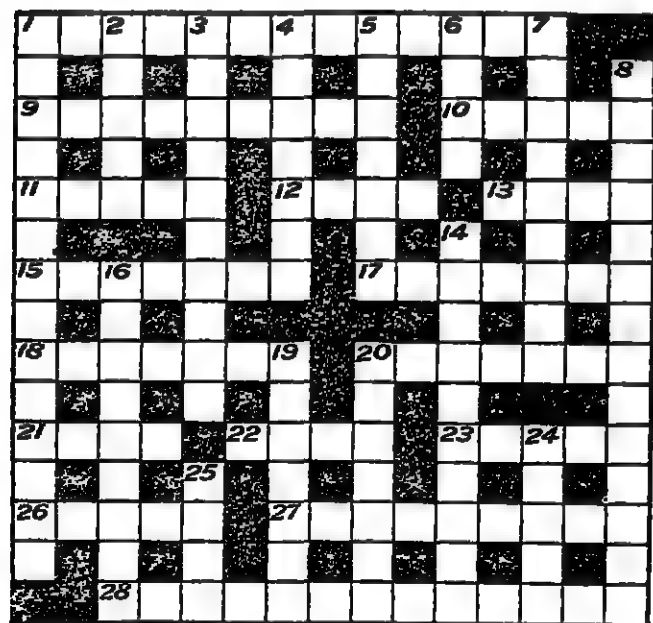
He was mocked and denounced in a powerful speech by Mr John Tiley, a Labour backbencher and a dedicated fellow traveller of the Women's Movement. He managed to work in a reference to "my black constituents", which had nothing to do with the case. So would you if, like Mr Tiley, your constituency included Brixton. Furthermore, he was about to face reelection by his local Labour Party in competition with Mr Benn's old associate, Mr Stuart Holland. Mr Proctor's move was defeated. We are none of us safe.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

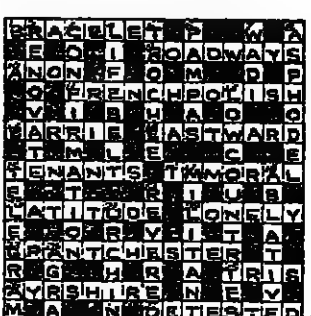
Royal engagements
Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, visit Japan, depart from Heathrow airport 1.10.
The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual dinner of the Medical Women's Federation, Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, 7.40.
Prince Michael of Kent attends Standard Telephone and Cables

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,110



- ACROSS**
- Novel bridge partnership (5,3,5).
 - City requires replacement for old man on board (9).
 - Vote against annual treat for workers (5).
 - Anguish of cast heard but not seen (5).
 - Cause of dispute could be funny (4).
 - Check ancestral line (4).
 - Overseas post - letters in steamship, maybe (7).
 - Brave fellow finishing race in novel circumstances (7).
 - 11 almost joining Edward in royal position (7).
 - Insectivore is unable to endure decapitation (3-4).
 - Ruler to set course in crisis (4).
 - Fly back, sound as a bell (4).
 - Girl reverses major road sign (5).
 - Put out the '51 port (5).
 - Instrument a proud father's delighted to hear (4,5).
 - Cricketers painted by Rembrandt (5-8).
- DOWN**
- Ineptly? Remarkably so (7).
 - 12 run amok in 13 (7).
 - Boss removes 21 from jet plane (4).
 - Courage to overcome each new sorrow (9).
 - Ordinary choice of words associated with market (6,2,6).
 - Change of image which achieved with this? (5,3).
 - Exclude undesirable Scot - an islander (9).
 - Extinct mammal used by 28, perhaps (4,3).
 - Subject born in a strangely regal setting (7).
 - Americans' very minute sphere (5).
 - In speech roughly rebuke former MP (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,109



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Food prices

Shoppers who complain that they can no longer afford beef should take a look at boneless topside and silver-side - these cuts have the advantages of no waste, better taste when thinly sliced, are easy to cook; the meat will retain its juices if left with the cut side upwards. Prices this week range from £1.84 to £2.25 a pound. Seasonal supply factors have pushed up lamb prices: Sainsbury's new season whole leg is £2.18 a pound, but Sainsbury have English whole shoulder at £1.09. Pork is still probably the best meat buy: Dewhurst have whole legs from 76p to £1.10 and boneless shoulder at 88p to £1.25, but the bargain of the week must be Westbury's hand of pork at 48p a pound. Sausage bacon joints are reduced by 23p a pound, and Fine Fare have fresh chicken at 54p a pound.

Spring cabbages are excellent at 20-30p a pound, and English spring greens are another good buy at 14-24p. English and Italian carrots at 10-14p a pound are very good and need little scalloping. Cauliflower is cheaper this week at 20-25p, and the small ones from Lincolnshire are particularly recommended. English Coss and Webb leucuses are just arriving in the shops at 30p to 40p a pound.

Cape black Barfika grapes are really good at 60-75p a pound, and there is plenty of English natural rhubarb at 16-26p. Apples include Saxon and Star Kings, both crisp and tasty at 30p to 40p a pound. Strawberries at 40p to 70p a half pound punnet are cheap for the time of year.

Anniversaries

Births: Henry Fielding, *Shamela*, 1733; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Madame de Staël, writer, Paris, 1766; Aleksandr Serenky, revolutionary, Smolensk, USSR, 1881; Kathleen Ferrier, singer, Higher Watton, Lancashire, 1912.

Deaths: John Crome, landscape painter, Norwich, 1821; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, London, 1908. The Royal Society received its charter from Charles II, 1662.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.85	1.77
Austria Sch	28.90	26.30
Belgium Fr	78.50	74.50
Canada \$	1.97	1.89
Denmark Kr	14.00	13.30
Finland Mk	8.50	8.20
France Fr	11.77	11.22
Germany DM	3.52	3.72
Greece Dr	135.00	125.00
Hongkong \$	10.37	10.32
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.19
Italy Lira	2315.00	2215.00
Japan Yen	365.00	365.00
Netherlands Gld	4.42	4.21
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	165.00	148.00
South Africa Rd	2.02	1.85
Spain Ptas	113.00	202.00
Sweden Kr	12.95	11.45
Switzerland Fr	3.31	3.13
USA \$	1.59	1.53

RETAIL PRICE INDEX: 327.3.
London: The FT Index closed up 13.8 at 692.0.

Roads

London and the South-east: Several sets of roadworks on A2: Old Kent Road, Southwark; avoid if possible. M25: New section from junctions 27 (M11) to 29 (A127), open to public from 1pm. M1: Southbound lane closures at junction 7 (M10 turn-off); delays during morning rush-hour. Midlands and East Angles: M54: Lane closures on Telford by-pass. A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. A5: Single lane traffic on Shrewsbury to Oswestry road at Westbrook, Shropshire. North: M6: Lane closures between junctions 41 (N of Penrith) to 42 (S of Carlisle). A1: Roadworks at Broughbridge, N Yorks. M62: Lane closures between junctions 22 (Bradford, Halifax) and 26 (Ripponden), W Yorks. Wales and West: A55: Single lane traffic with lights at Penicuik Head, Old Colwyn, Cymru. M5: Northbound exit slip road closed at junction 25 (Taunton); diversion via junction 26 for Taunton traffic. A46: Temporary lights at Cheltenham Road roundabout in Gloucester; diversion. Scotland: A8: Diversions and carriageway closures at Parkies, Port Glasgow. A72: Single lane traffic at Parkies. A98: Fort road bridge: Lane closures; also diversions for wide loads. Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

The Corley strike is not about workers cleaning up in company time, but whether the management will be able to go on dictating to the Daily Express. "It is time to teach them a few basic truths about industrial relations."

There should have been no need for a mass rally at Corley, says the Daily Express. "The stoppage has been going on for three weeks - plenty of time for the unions to have organized a secret postal ballot. But now it is up to the workers to vote publicly for their families and get back to work."

London rainfall

In the first 20 days of this month, central London has had 2.65 inches of rain; this already makes it the third wettest April on record since 1940. The wettest was in 1966 with 3.24 inches and the second wettest in 1964 with 2.94 inches.

Top films

- Top box-office films in London:
1. Sophie's Choice
 2. Gandhi
 3. The Long Walk Home
 4. An Officer and a Gentleman
 5. The Untouchables
 6. The Verdict
 7. The Untouchables
 8. The Untouchables
 9. The Untouchables
 10. The Untouchables
- The top five in the provinces:
1. Local Hero
 2. Gandhi
 3. The Dark Crystal
 4. The Boys in Blue
 5. Raiders of the Lost Ark
- Compiled by Screen International

Weather forecast

A deep depression will approach SW England from the Atlantic, and associated troughs of low pressure will move N across England and Wales.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel islands, S Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy and thundery in places, sleet or snow on some high ground, becoming brighter later; wind E, fresh to strong, locally gale, backing SW and moderating later; max temp 10 to 15 (10 to 14F). East Angles, Midlands, N, NW, central N England, N Wales: Cloudy, rain by evening, heavy and thundery in places, sleet or snow on some high ground, becoming brighter later; wind E, fresh to strong, veering SW, moderate; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

East Angles, Midlands, N, NW, central N England, N Wales: Cloudy, rain by evening, heavy and thundery in places, sleet or snow on some high ground, becoming brighter later; wind E, fresh to strong, veering SW, moderate; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Passes: North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE, fresh or strong, perhaps gale for a time, veering SW; sea rough, perhaps very rough. English Channel: Wind S to SW, fresh or strong, sea moderate to rough, perhaps very rough later. St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE, strong or gale; sea rough or very rough.

Lighting-up time

London 8.38 pm on 5.20 pm
Great 8.40 pm on 5.20 pm
Surrey 8.50 pm on 5.20 pm
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